Bloodborne

THE LADY OF THE LANTERNS

TITAN COMICS

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COVER A
JUNGGEUN YOON

BUNN KOWALSKI SIMPSON

Bloodborne

ISSUE #1

THE LADY OF THE LANTERNS
PART 1 OF 4

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Brad Simpson

LETTERING BY
AndWorld Design's
JAME

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Set in the world of Bloodborne.

The city of Yharnam: an ancient, gothic metropolis in a world of gods and monsters, has fallen foul of a nightmarish plague.

The Healing Church, known for its miraculous blood-based curatives, does not know where the mysterious Ashen Blood disease came from, or how to prevent it from ravaging Yharnam's citizens.

Hunters stalk the streets in search of beasts, the first line of defense against the madness. But not all monsters are so easily recognized – in the homes and hearts of men, fear and grief can breed a new type of torment…

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HIDE, HIDE... DON'T LET HER SEE...

THE LADY OF THE LANTERN... IS COMING FOR ME...

...COVER YOUR EARS AND GOUGE OUT YOUR EYES...

...THE LANTERN LADY'S SONG...

...MAKES YOU FOOD FOR THE FLIES...

STILL NO SIGN, LUCIEN.

FATHER SAID HE'D BE BACK **BEFORE** NIGHTFALL.

BUT THERE'S STILL NO SIGN.

COME AWAY FROM THE WINDOW, VIVIAN. FATHER TOLD YOU NOT TO SIT THERE AND STARE.

HE SAID--

I **KNOW** WHAT HE SAID. "IF YOU'RE NOT WARY, SOMETHING ***FOUL*** MIGHT STARE BACK AT YOU."

WHEN HE RETURNS, THOUGH, WE NEED TO BE READY TO LET HIM IN.

I NEED TO KEEP WATCH.

YOU NEED TO **EAT.** WE BOTH DO.

WE'VE GONE WITHOUT LONGER THAN WE PROMISED FATHER WE WOULD.

HE'LL BE BACK SOON.

LUCIEN! LUCIEN! IT'S **FATHER!** HE'S **RETURNED!** QUICK! OPEN THE DOOR!

F-FATHER?

HELP ME WITH THIS!

YOU'RE SURE?

PLEASE, BROTHER!

TH-CLUNK

OH!

THIS ISN'T FATHER!

WHO IS HE?

TH-THE DOOR...

WHATEVER YOU DO...

...CLOSE THE BLOODY DOOR!

HE'S *HURT! BADLY!* WHAT COULD HAVE--

GRIMAGH

A BEAST OF THE SCOURGE!

GRAAAGH

KR-KRAK

YOU'LL NOT HAVE THESE CHILDREN. YOU'LL NOT HAVE ME...

...TONIGHT.

GRRR

BACK TO THE PIT WITH YOU!

RAAAGH

SLAM

WHUUUGF!

SHRAAKT

BACK TO YOUR LADY.

GRRRRR

WA-THOOM

N-NOW... THE DOOR. CLOSE IT. BAR IT.

THE CARRION CROWS, AND **OTHER THINGS...**

...WILL FEAST ON **DISEASED** FLESH TONIGHT.

CL-CLINK

THE BEASTS OF THE SCOURGE. THERE ARE MORE OF THEM OUT THERE.

F-FOR PITY'S SAKE SEAL THE DOOR.

VIVIAN!

FETCH SOME CLEAN RAGS!

ANYTHING WE CAN USE TO BIND HIS WOUNDS!

HERE, SIR...

BARNABAS.

BARNABAS. REST HERE...

I'M VIVIAN. THIS IS MY BROTHER, LUCIEN.

MY FATHER WILL BE BACK SOON. HE WENT OUT INTO THE CITY TO FIND FOOD.

OUT... INTO THE CITY?

GIRL. YOUR FATHER...

WE'LL BIND YOUR WOUNDS, STOP THE BLEEDING.

RNNN--

OUR MOTHER, REST HER SOUL, WAS A HEALING WOMAN.

SHE TAUGHT US HOW TO MAKE SALVES TO KEEP FEVER AWAY.

YOU KNOW THE ROOTS?

IN THE CUPBOARD, YES. AND I REMEMBER THE RECIPE.

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH, SO DON'T **WASTE** IT.

CLEVER, CLEVER CHILDREN. I'M SORRY I BROUGHT THESE TROUBLES DOWN UPON YOU.

YOU'RE A **HUNTER**, AREN'T YOU?

AYE, BOY.

"BARNABAS CADE IS MY NAME.

"CHOSEN FOR THE HUNT.

"GUIDED BY THE MESSENGERS, LIKE SO MANY OTHERS.

"MINE IS A QUEST OF **BLOODSHED** AND **DEATH**, INDEED.

"BUT ALSO OF **MERCY**.

"MERCY TO THE POOR SOULS **CORRUPTED** AND **TORMENTED** BY THE **SCOURGE OF THE BEAST**.

"I'VE SLAIN MORE HORRORS THAN I CARE TO REMEMBER.

"BRIGANDS AND BEASTS...

"...TWISTED BY THE PLAGUE INTO **UNSPEAKABLE THINGS**."

"NEVER, THOUGH, HAVE I BEEN SO HAUNTED...

"...SO TROUBLED...

"...AS I WAS WHEN I HEARD THE *LANTERN LADY'S* SONG.

"IT WAS **BEAUTIFUL**, INDEED, BUT **AWFUL** AND **TERRIBLE**, TOO.

"AWFUL... BECAUSE I KNEW IT WAS FALSE...

"...AND YET I COULD NOT RESIST.

"TERRIBLE... BECAUSE THE VOICE...

"...THE BEAUTIFUL SONG THAT DREW ME CLOSER...

"...SOUNDED LIKE THE SWEET VOICE OF MY LONG-LOST *ABIGAIL.*"

"THIS, I KNEW...

"...WAS ANOTHER FALSEHOOD...

"...ANOTHER TRICK...

"BUT THE FIRES OF LOVE THAT STIRRED WITHIN ME...

"...BURNED AWAY MY HESITATION.

"I WANTED TO BELIEVE THE LIE.

"I WANTED TO FOLLOW.

"I MISTRUSTED MY OWN EYES...

"...DENIED THOSE THINGS I SAW...

"...REBUFFED MY JUDGMENT...

"...MY INSTINCTS...

"...AT THE WHIM OF THE LANTERN LADY'S SONG."

"EVEN AS THE TRAP SPRANG SHUT...

"...EVEN AS HER SONG CHANGED...

"...FROM A BEAUTIFUL MELODY TO HIDEOUS, OTHERWORLDLY, MOCKING LAUGHTER...

"...MY MIND STRUGGLED TO BELIEVE THE SHATTERING ILLUSION.

"MY STRENGTH...

"...MY SPEED...

"...HAD BEEN STOLEN FROM ME.

"THE GLAMOUR FADED...

"...THE LANTERN LADY'S TRUE FORM TOOK SHAPE...

"...AND I WAS OVERWHELMED BY ANOTHER FEELING I HAD LONG DENIED MYSELF.

"FEAR."

I FOUGHT THE BEASTS OFF... KILLED AS MANY AS I COULD. I RAN.

MY SENSES CLEARED, BUT I HAD ALREADY SUFFERED GRIEVOUSLY.

AND MY FLIGHT BROUGHT ME TO YOUR DOOR.

HERE, SIR. DRINK THIS.

IT WILL FORTIFY YOU.

PLEASE, SIR. OUR FATHER HAS VENTURED OUT INTO THE CITY. HE SET OUT TO FIND FOOD BUT HAS NOT RETURNED.

C-CAN YOU FIND HIM FOR US? CAN YOU BRING HIM BACK?

I WOULD LOOK, BOY, YES, WHEN MY STRENGTH RETURNS. BUT... YOU MUST STEEL YOURSELF... PREPARE YOURSELF. MOST LIKELY, YOUR FATHER IS **DEAD.**

OR, **WORSE,** HE HAS **SUCCUMBED** TO THE PLAGUE.

I WISH IT WERE NOT SO.

"HIDE... HIDE..."

DON'T LET HER SEE.

"THE LANTERN LADY IS COMING FOR ME.

"COVER YOUR EARS."

AND GOUGE OUT YOUR--

FATHER!

SNNF

SNNF

WHAT IS THIS?

YOU'RE OUR GUEST.

HERE. YOU CAN USE *FATHER'S* CHAIR.

POTATOES, SIR.

COME. SIT AND EAT.

I HAD THOUGHT YOU WERE OUT OF FOOD.

THIS IS ALMOST A FEAST COMPARED TO WHAT I MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED.

POTATOES.

WHERE DID YOU GET THEM?

VIVIAN? TELL HIM. YOU MUST HAVE FOUND THEM TUCKED DEEP ON A SHELF...

...OR FALLEN BEHIND THE CUPBOARD PERHAPS--

OF COURSE NOT, SILLY.

FATHER GAVE THEM TO ME.

S-SISTER? WHAT IS... THIS?

WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOUR--

RUN, RUN, WHATEVER YOU DO.

THE LADY OF THE LANTERN IS COMING FOR YOU.

STEP AWAY FROM THE TABLE, BOY.

WHAT? WAIT--

SHE'S INFECTED.

THE LADY OF THE LANTERN IS COMING FOR YOU.

BLAM

ARGH!

RRR

RRR

NO.

BLAM

VIVIAN! OH... NO!

M-MY SISTER! YOU... JUST CUT HER DOWN!

I... AM SORRY, BOY. THE PLAGUE HAD HER.

THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE THAT COULD BE DONE.

IT WAS... A MERCY.

WHAT DO YOU--

I WON'T STAY HERE WITH YOU! AND I KNOW I CAN'T FORCE YOU OUT!

SO-- I'M LEAVING!

SHE WAS MY *SISTER!* SHE WAS *KIND* TO YOU!

AND YOU *MURDERED* HER!

THE GIRL WAS ALREADY DEAD.

I WON'T TRAP MYSELF IN HERE--

--WITH A BEAST!

DON'T BE A FOOL!

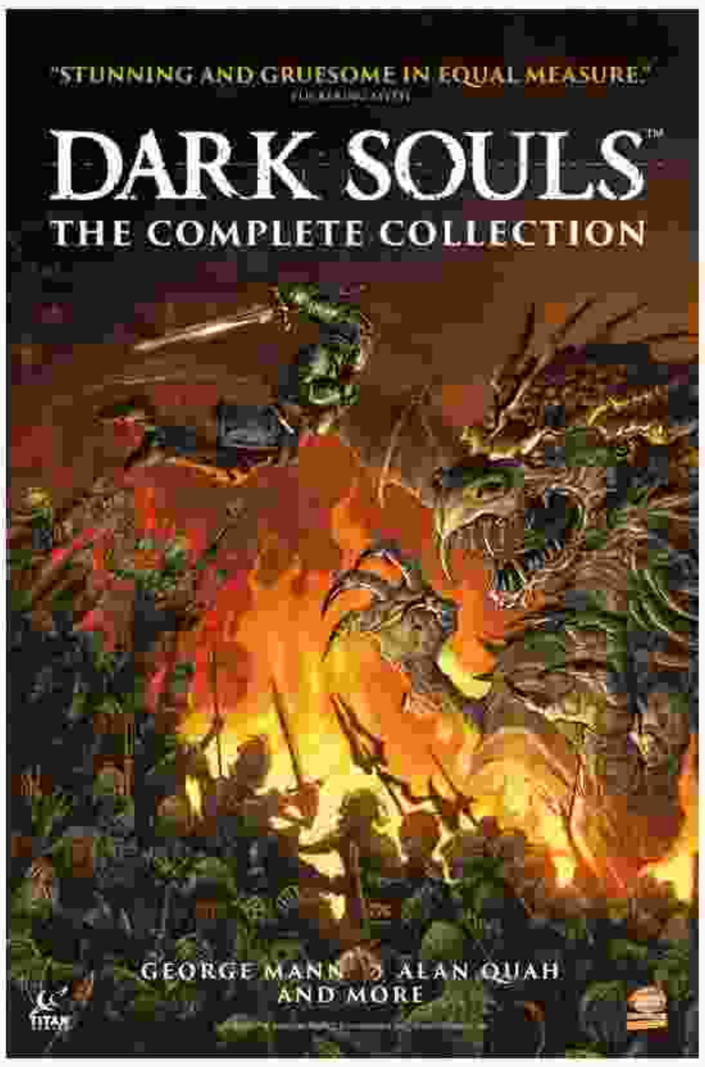
THE CITY IS DANGEROUS! IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, YOU'LL END UP JUST LIKE--

"COVER YOUR EARS."

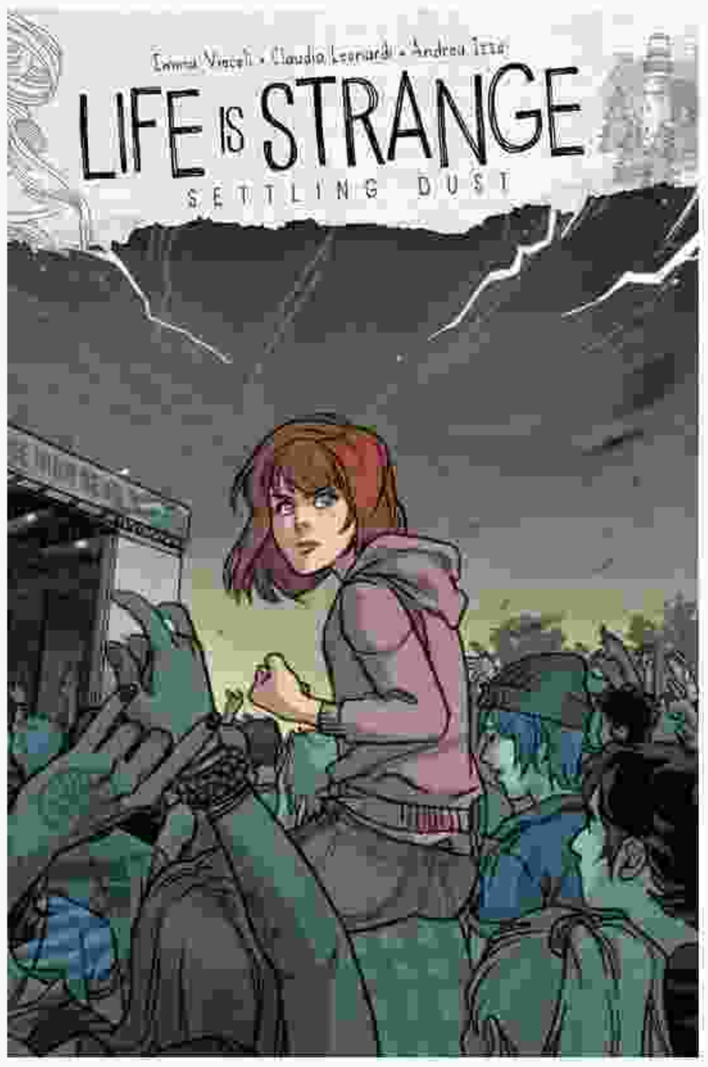
COVER YOUR EARS, BOY.

TO BE CONTINUED...

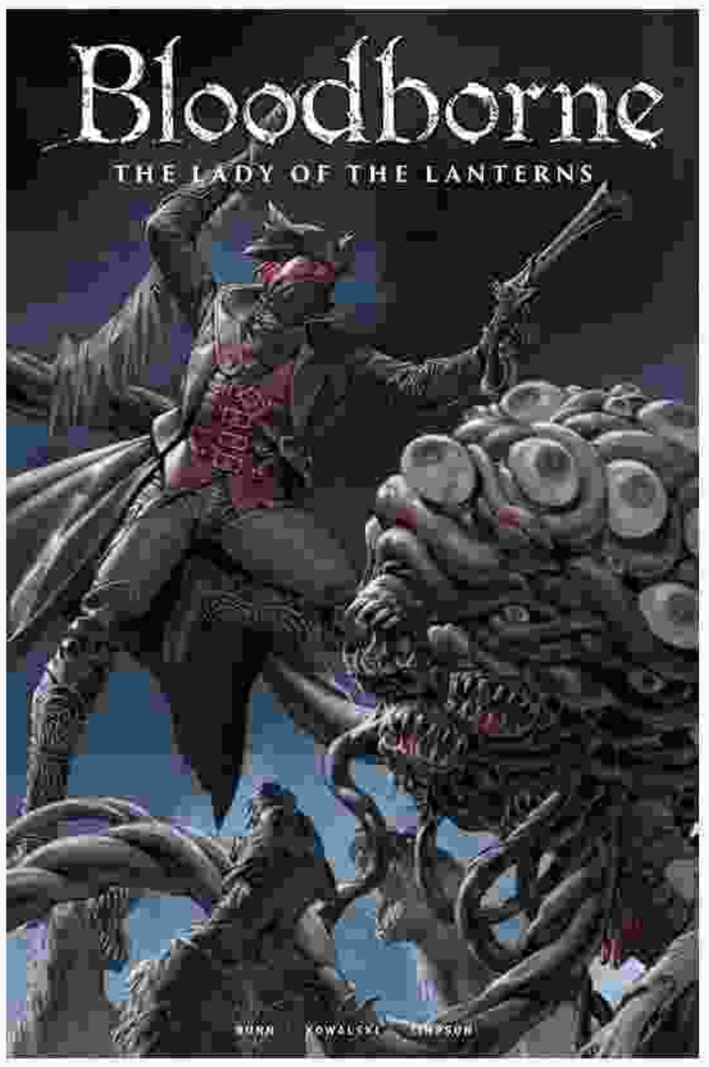
NEXT LEVEL GRAPHIC NOVELS FOR THE GAMER IN YOU!



DARK SOULS: THE COMPLETE COLLECTION

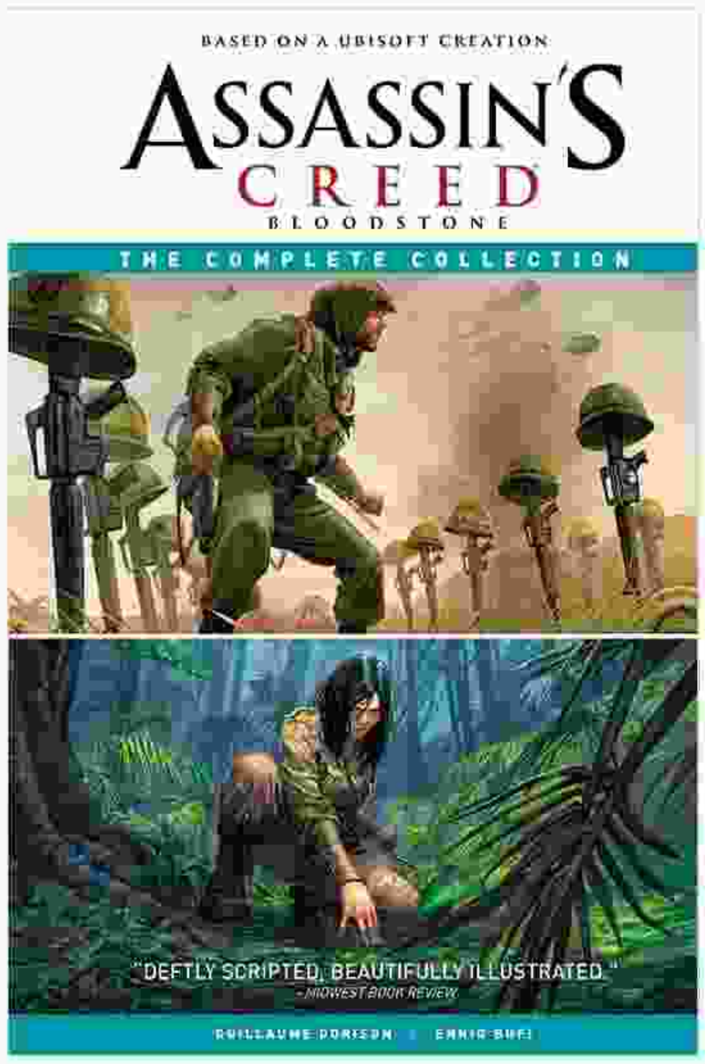


LIFE IS STRANGE VOL.6 SETTLING DUST



BLOODBORNE VOL. 5 LADY OF THE LANTERNS

HORIZON ZERO DAWN VOL.2 LIBERATION



ASSASSIN'S CREED: BLOODSTONE COLLECTION

SEA OF THIEVES ORIGINS: CHAMPION OF SOULS

BANDAI NAMCO

UBISOFT

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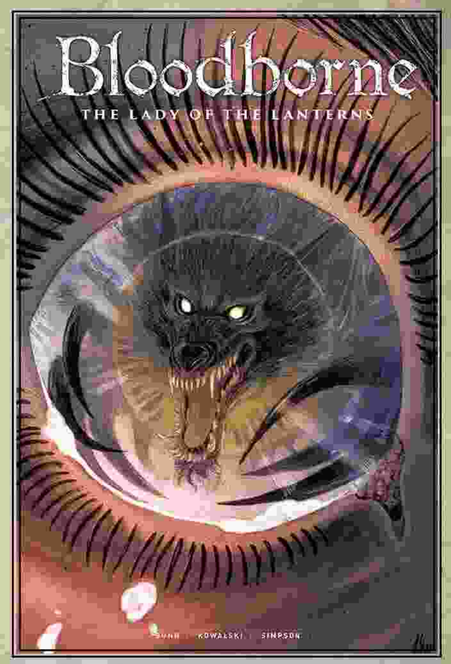

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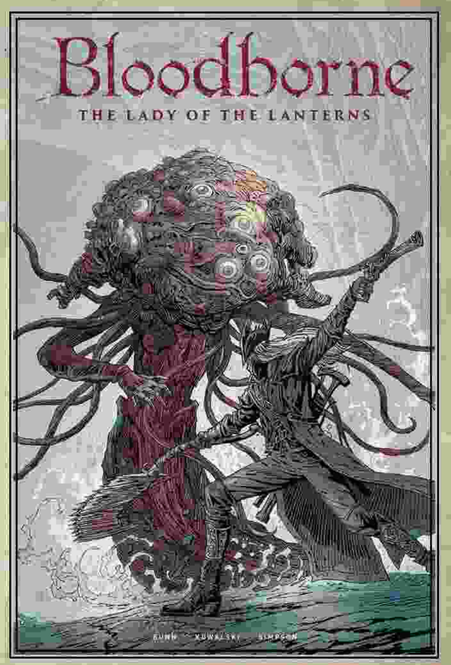

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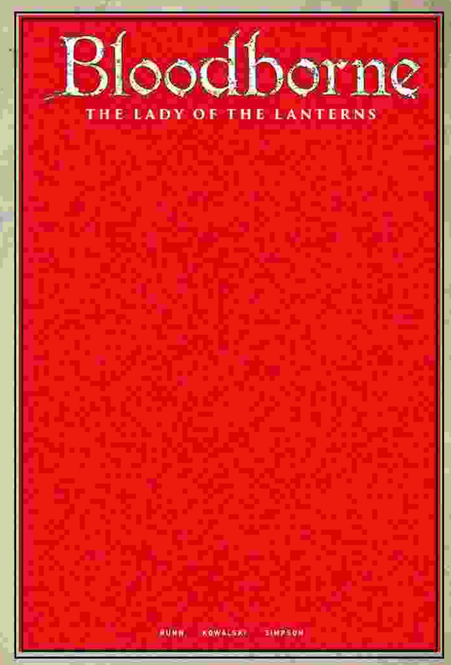

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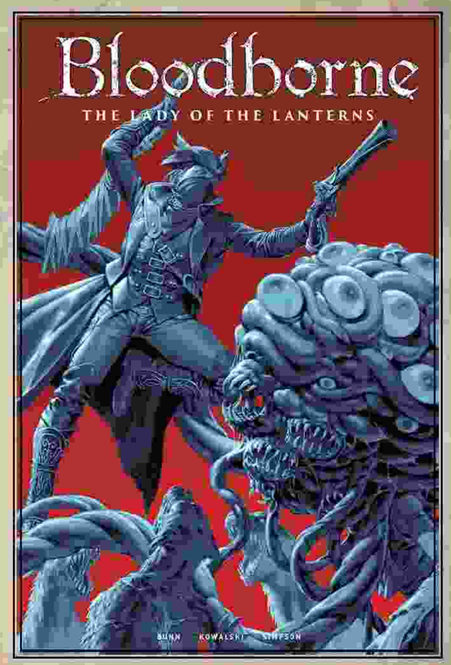

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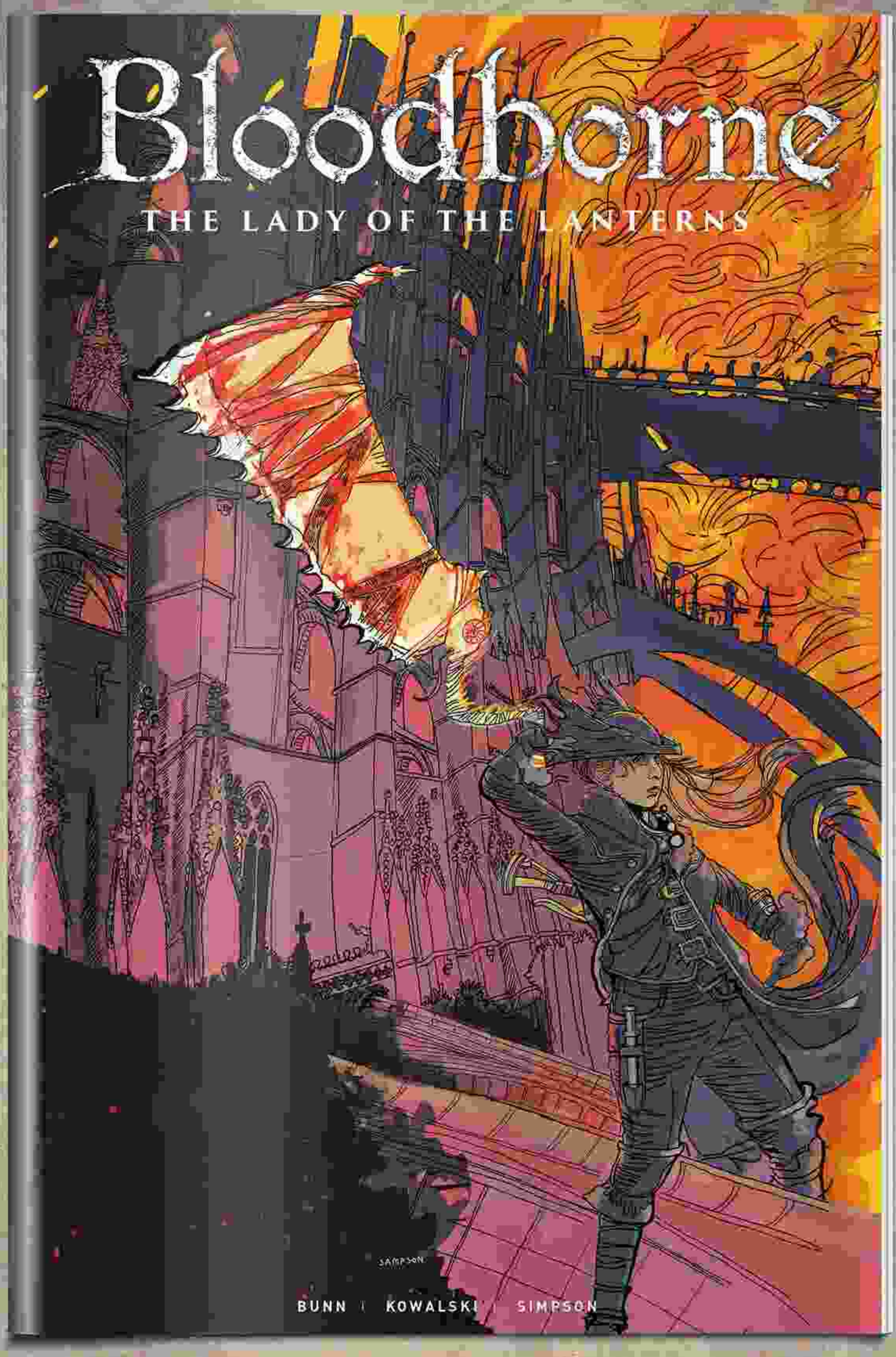

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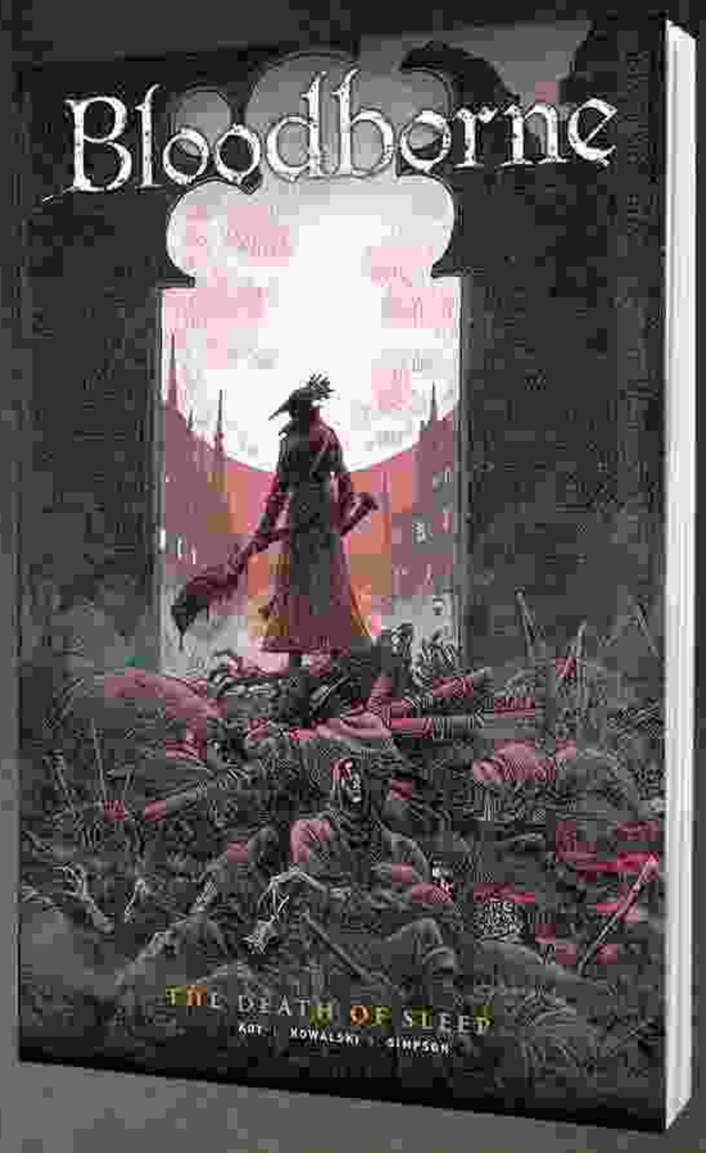

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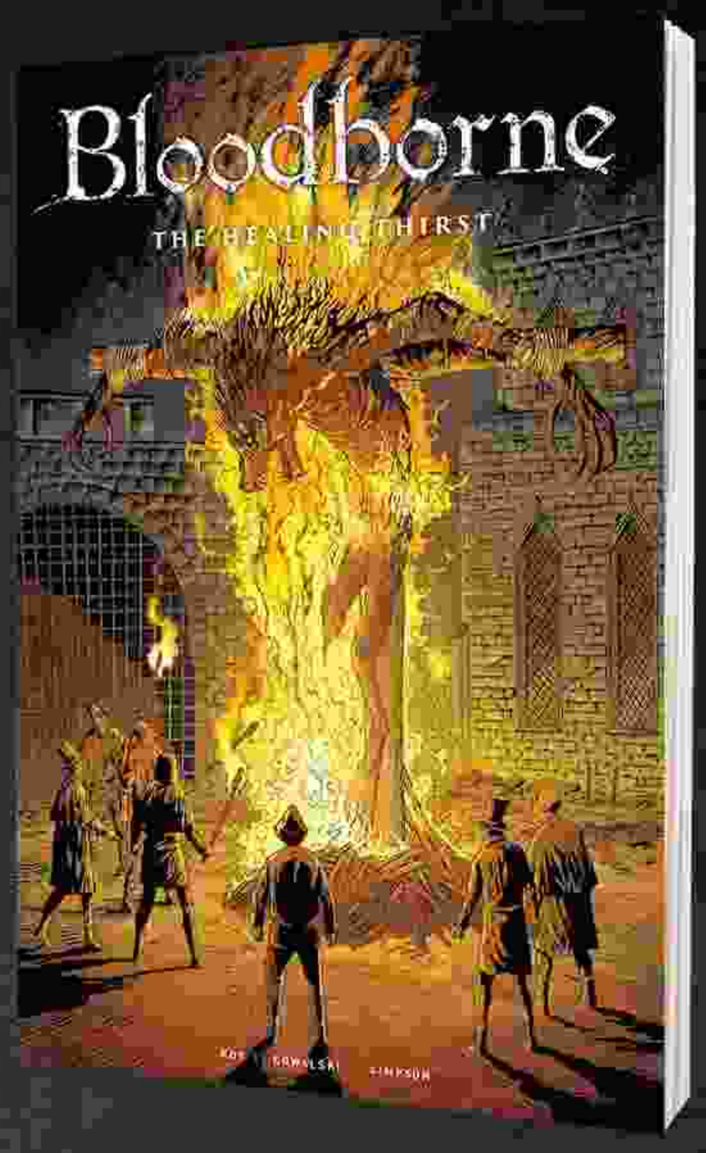

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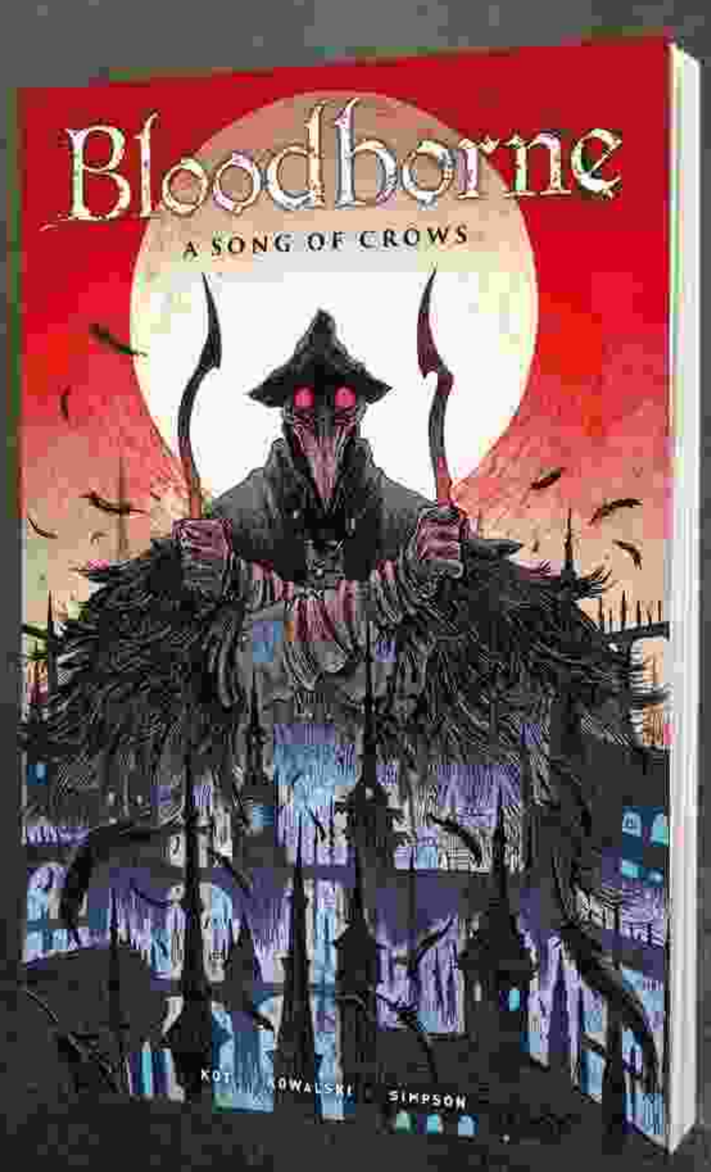

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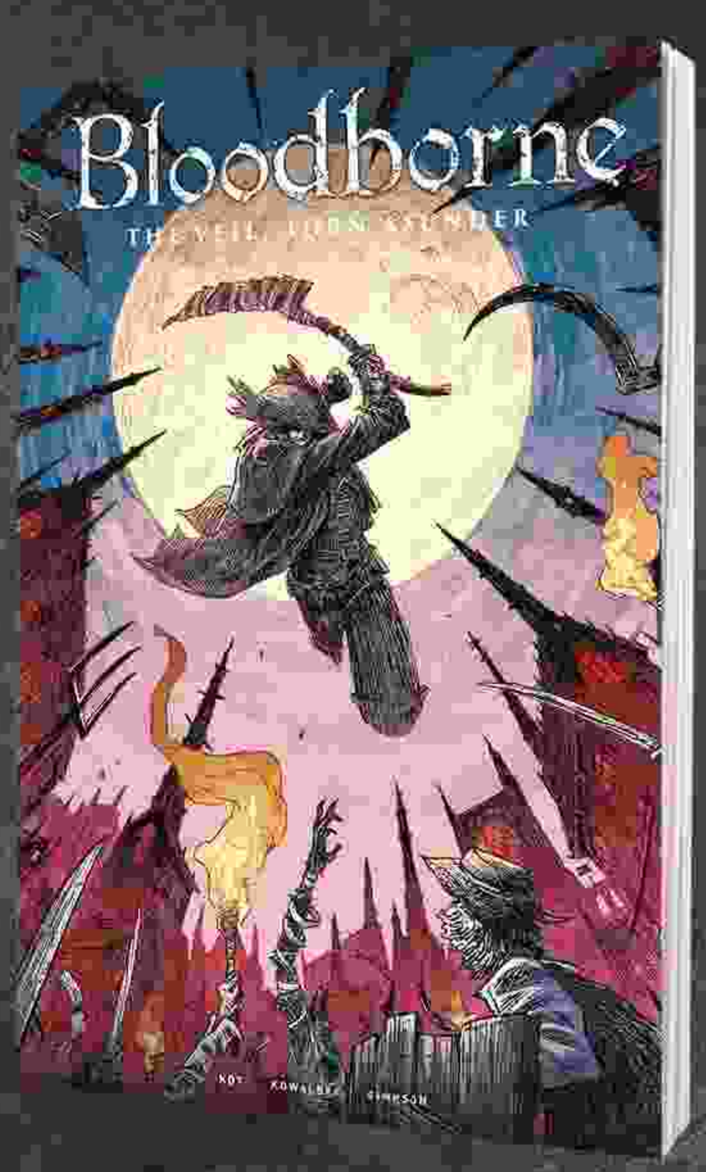

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"KOWALSKI AND SIMPSON'S ART IS IMPECCABLE. FAN OR NOT, THIS ONE COMES HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!"
BLEEDING COOL

"THE ARTWORK AND WRITING COME TOGETHER TO MAKE A TRULY DARK EXPERIENCE."
FOR THE LOVE OF INDIE

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SAMPSON

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Hunters stalk the streets in search of beasts, the first line of defense against the madness. But not all monsters are so easily recognized – in the homes and hearts of men, fear and grief can breed a new type of torment…

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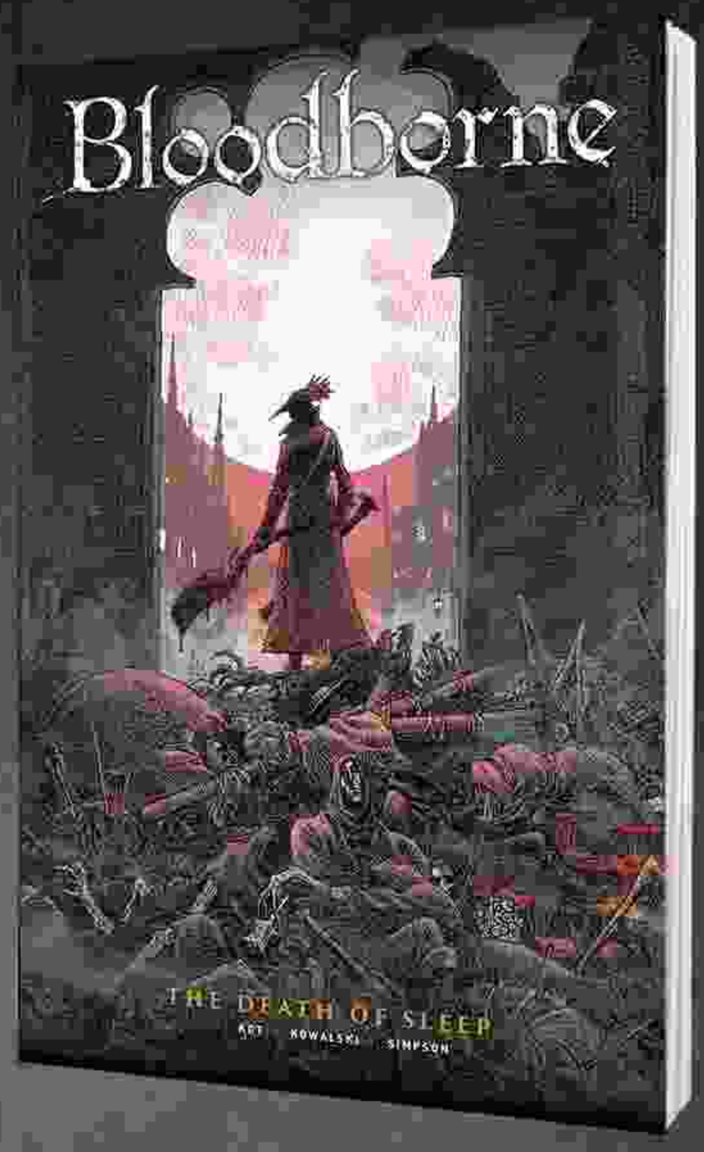

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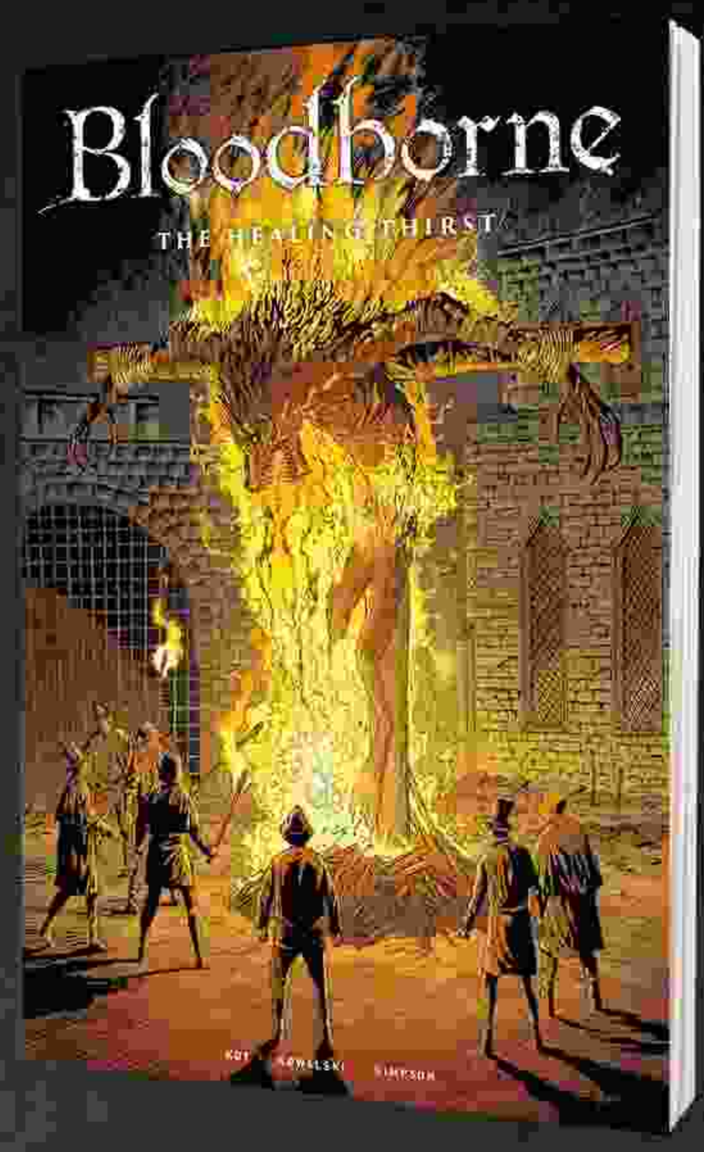

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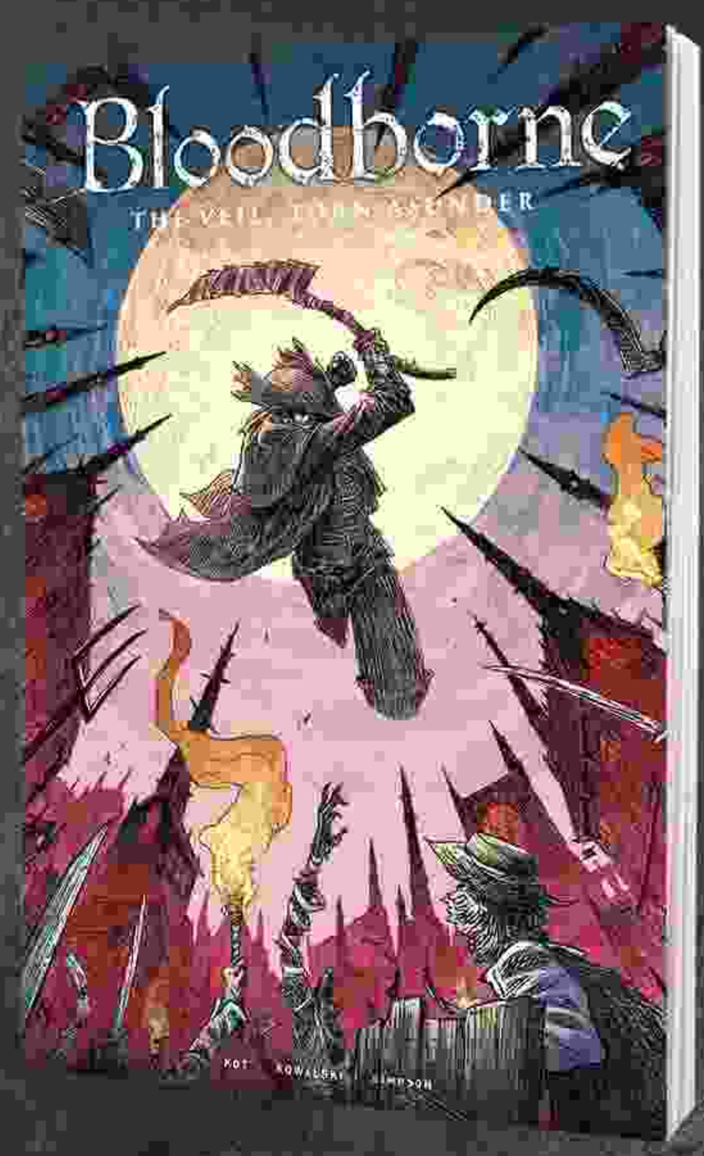

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"...IN THE NAME OF THE SAINTS, WE PRAY...

"...FOR **PROTECTION** FROM THE DEVILS THAT HUNT US IN THE STREET...

"...FOR **REFUGE** FROM THE SICKNESS THAT RAVAGES BOTH BODY AND MIND...

"...FOR **SHELTER** FROM THE HORRORS THAT PROWL IN THE NIGHT.

"FOR **PEACE**, FOR **SALVATION**...

"...AND FOR **SANCTUARY**."

WE REALIZE OUR SUFFERING IS PART OF A *GREAT PLAN.*

OUR **PENANCE** FOR *SIN.*

AND YET WE ASK FOR *MERCY* AND *BENEVOLENCE.*

WE TRUST IN YOUR **GUIDANCE.** IN YOUR **BLESSINGS.**

IN YOUR **LIGHT.**

IT IS SO.

TH-THAT'S IT?

PRAYERS?

WHAT GOOD ARE BLESSINGS?

WE NEED HELP!

I'M **HUNGRY!**

YOU'RE HUNGRY? WE'RE **ALL** STARVING!

WE NEED FOOD!

I AM SORRY.

I MUST...

I MUST **MEDITATE.**

FATHER FREDERIC!

PRIEST-- WAIT!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WE NEED SOMETHING **MORE!**

THE FLOCK HAS LOST ITS WAY.

THEY GATHER HERE FOR A SAFETY.

AND I DARE NOT TURN THEM AWAY.

BUT THEY DO NOT OFFER BENEDICTION.

THEY MAKE **DEMANDS.**

THEY WANT TO **COMMAND** THE MANIFESTATION OF **MIRACLES.**

EMPTY PROMISES...

...PLATITUDES...

...HAVE LEFT THEM **DESPERATE.**

THEIR FAITH...

...AFTER SO MUCH PAIN...

...HAS **SHATTERED.**

I OFFER NO **COMFORTING WORDS.**

I FEEL NO **DESIRE** TO SHEPHERD THEM.

I SHARE ONLY IN THEIR **ANGER** AND **FEAR.**

IN THEIR **FAITHLESSNESS.**

WHAT--

WHERE AM I?

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

H-HOW DID I GET HERE?

I HAVE BEEN...

...SPIRITED AWAY...

...FROM MY FLOCK.

FROM MY--

--CHURCH.

WHO BROUGHT ME HERE?

FOR WHAT *PURPOSE?*

TH-THAT MUSIC... THAT SONG... CALLING TO ME.

I AM **NOT** MAD.

MY *MIND* IS NOT AS BROKEN... AS MY ***BELIEFS.***

THIS IS BUT A **DREAM.**

NONE OF THIS IS REAL.

I AM SAFE.

SAFE!

NOTHING HERE CAN HARM ME.

AND YET...

...SOME GREAT POWER BECKONS.

WHAT IS WANTED FROM ME?

WHAT BEHEST DO THESE STRANGE FORCES WISH TO IMPART?

NOOO!!!

BY ALL THAT IS SACRED!

THE NIGHTMARE!

HAS IT ENDED?

IS IT JUST BEGINNING?

I... I KNOW... WHAT HAS BEEN ASKED OF ME!

I WILL NOT!

I AM NOT A WARRIOR!

I AM NOT A HUNTER!

I CANNOT FIGHT!

I'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY!

I'LL NOT DO WHAT THEY ASKED!

NO MATTER--

"NO MATTER WHAT THEY SHOWED ME!"

GO BACK TO YOUR DREAMS!

TELL YOUR MASTERS!

I FORSAKE THEM!

I CHOSE HOW I WOULD HELP!

WITH PRAYER!

WITH SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE!

I WILL NOT TAKE UP A BLADE!

I WILL NOT CONFRONT THE BEASTS!

I CONTROL MY DESTINY!

"I CONTROL THE DESTINY OF THE CONGREGATION!"

THE PRIESTS WHO FLED INTO THE NIGHT...

...THOSE WHO WERE CRUSHED BY THE COLLAPSING WALLS OF THEIR OWN BELIEFS...

...THOSE WHO LEFT ME BEHIND...

...PREPARED FOR THIS--

--THE END OF DAYS.

THEY NEVER WANTED TO FIGHT.

THEY DID NOT TRAIN WITH BLADES OR CANNONS.

THEY WERE... AFRAID.

BUT THEY GATHERED GUNPOWDER.

THEY PREPARED FOR THE INEVITABLE DAY OF CLEANSING.

MY FLOCK.

I WILL TEND THEM.

THIS IS THE BEST I CAN DO.

I WILL SPARE THEM THE HORRORS OF THIS WORLD.

BUT FIRST... I WILL MAKE SURE THEIR SOULS ARE MADE READY.

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?

WE CANNOT HIDE HERE FOREVER!

WE ARE CURSED! CURSED!

IS THERE NO SALVATION?

ALL OF YOU!

PLEASE, HEAR ME!

A PRAYER!

ONE MORE PRAYER AND -PERHAPS- PEACE!

LET US PRAY.

LET US UNBURDEN OUR SOULS.

ONE LAST TIME.

ANOTHER PRAYER?

WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO?

USELESS! USELESS!

HOW WILL PRAYER SAVE US FROM THOSE THINGS?

WE STAND BEFORE YOU...

...UNCLEAN... ...DOUBTING...

...AND YET WE BEG YOU FOR A SIGN OF YOUR--

THE CREATURES OF THE SCOURGE.
THE BEASTS.
THEY HAVE BROUGHT MALICE AND DESTRUCTION...
...TO THIS SANCTIFIED PLACE.
WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SAFE HERE.
BUT WITHOUT FAITH TO BOLSTER THEM...

...THE WALLS CANNOT HOLD THE TIDE OF DARKNESS BACK.

GRAAAAAUGH

SCREAMS...

...HOPELESS SHRIEKING...

N-NO!

HOLD TRUE!

DO NOT DESPAIR!

...DROWN ANY HOLLOW PRAYER I MIGHT MUTTER.

FEAR-FILLED CRIES SWALLOW WHOLE ANY ANSWER THE GOD MIGHT--

BOOM

SAVE AS MANY PENITENTS AS YOU CAN, ABRAHAM.

REMEMBER, THOUGH. THEY ARE **NOT** THE PRIORITY.

WE SPARE A GREAT MANY MORE SOULS...

...BY FOCUSING ON THE ***DEALING OF DEATH.***

YES, GRETCHEN.

HUNTERS.

WARRIORS.

HERE IN MY CHURCH.

SHNICK

HHHHT!

THOOM

D-DO YOU SEE?

OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED.

THE HUNTERS HAVE BEEN SENT IN OUR MOMENT OF NEED.

GRAAWF

AAAAGH!

FATHER FREDERIC!

P-PLEASE!

DO SOMETHING!

PLEASE!

GRRR

GRRR

KA-BLAM

KA-KRAK

IT... IS... FROM MY DREAM!
A WARNING!
A PROPHECY!
GRRRRRRRRR

WE'RE OUTNUMBERED, GRETCHEN!

WE ALWAYS WERE!

WHAT DO WE DO?

WE FIGHT, ABRAHAM! WITH ALL WE'VE GOT-- *WE FIGHT!*

TH-THAT MUSIC!

SO PEACEFUL!

IT OFFERS SAFETY!

BLESSINGS!

HUNTERS!

YOU MUST GET THESE PEOPLE OUT OF HERE!

TAKE THEM FROM THIS PLACE! **FLEE!**

AND I'LL TEND THESE BEASTS!

MY NEW FLOCK.

I KNOW NOW WHAT THE **DREAMS** TRIED TO TELL ME.

I UNDERSTAND THE **SOLEMN DUTY** THAT FALLS TO ME.

ALL OF YOU!

OUTSIDE!

FAST AS YOU CAN!

THIS IS WHY I AM HERE.

TO DELIVER MY CONGREGATION FROM A HORRIBLE FATE.

THIS WAY! COME ON!

WE'LL HOLD THE BEASTS BACK!

MERCY...

...AND BENEVOLENCE.

IT IS SO.

--HM

N-NO! NO!

NOOO!

THERE IS NO ESCAPE FOR ME.

THERE NEVER WAS.

NO!

THWAK

AND YET I AM NOT AFRAID.

I FEEL A SERENITY I HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED IN A LONG TIME.

IN THIS... MY FINAL MOMENT...

...AWASH WITH WARMTH...

...I AM RENEWED.

BOOM

THE CHURCH!

IT HAS FALLEN!

THE BEASTS TOOK IT!

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

WHO WILL ANSWER OUR PRAYERS?

THE PRIEST--

HE BROUGHT THE WALLS CRASHING DOWN UPON THE BEASTS.

HE WAS AS MUCH A HUNTER AS EITHER OF US.

THE PEOPLE, THOUGH... WHERE WILL THEY GO?

WHO WILL CARE FOR THEM?

WHO WILL PROTECT THEM?

THERE ARE OTHER CHURCHES. OTHER PRIESTS.

WE CANNOT GUIDE THEM.

LIKE YOU GUIDED ME?

A **FLEETING** LAPSE IN REASON. DON'T MAKE ME REGRET IT.

COME ALONG, ABRAHAM.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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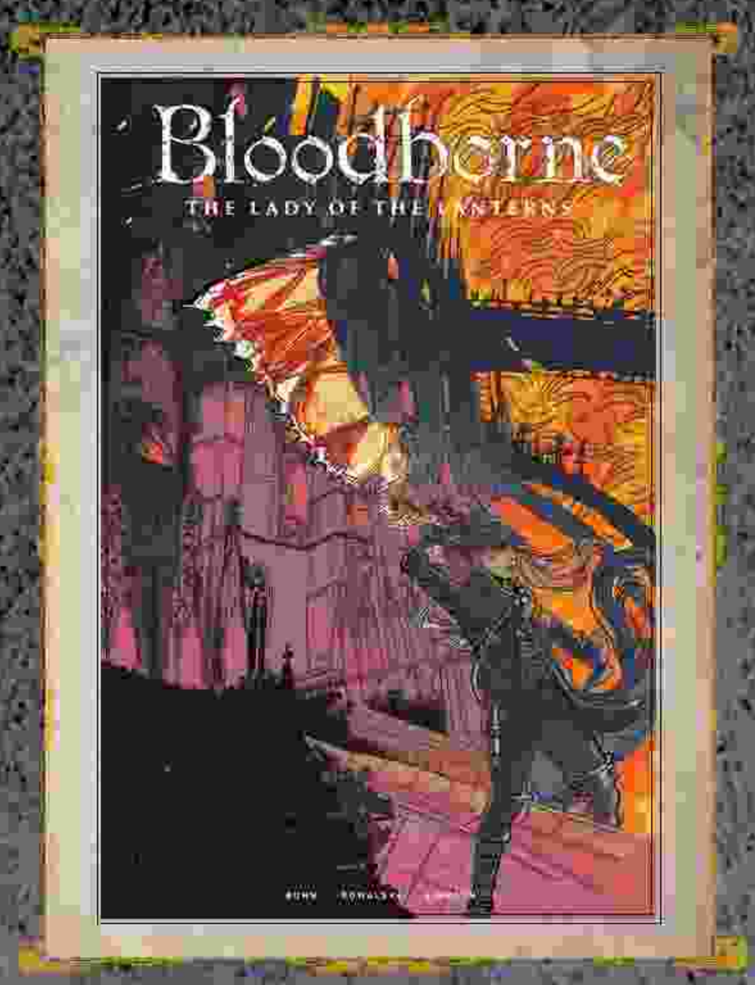

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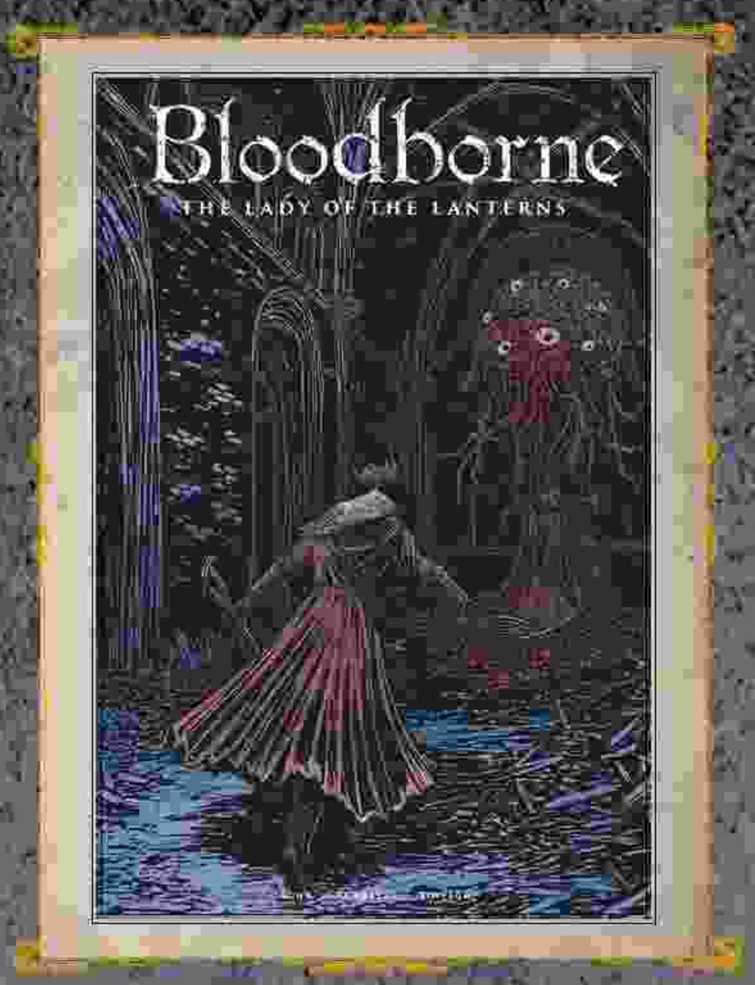

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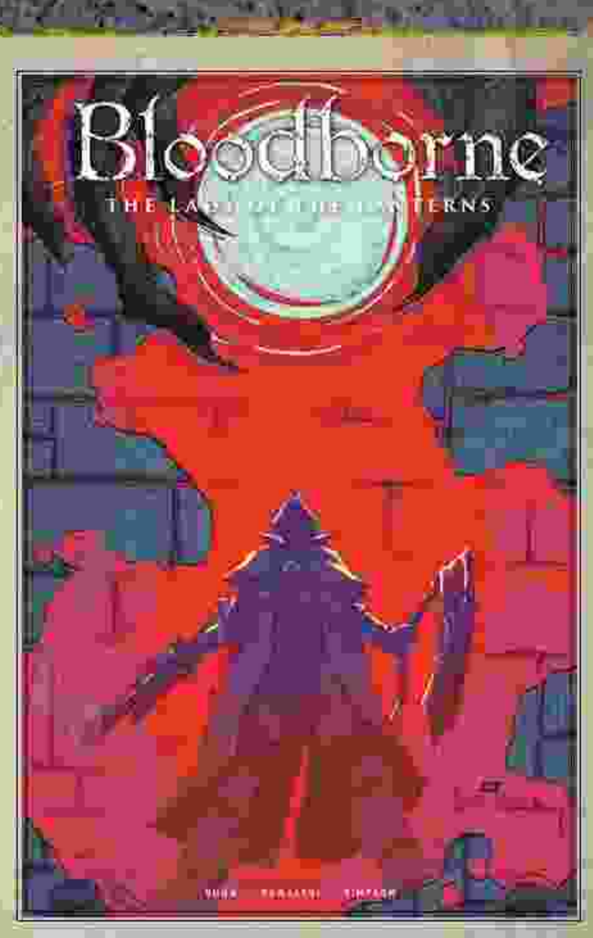

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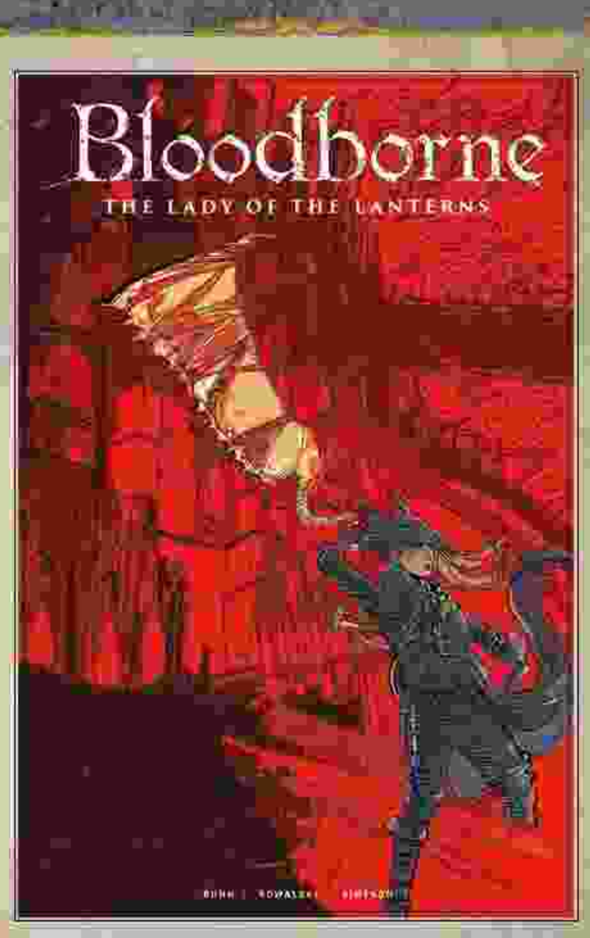

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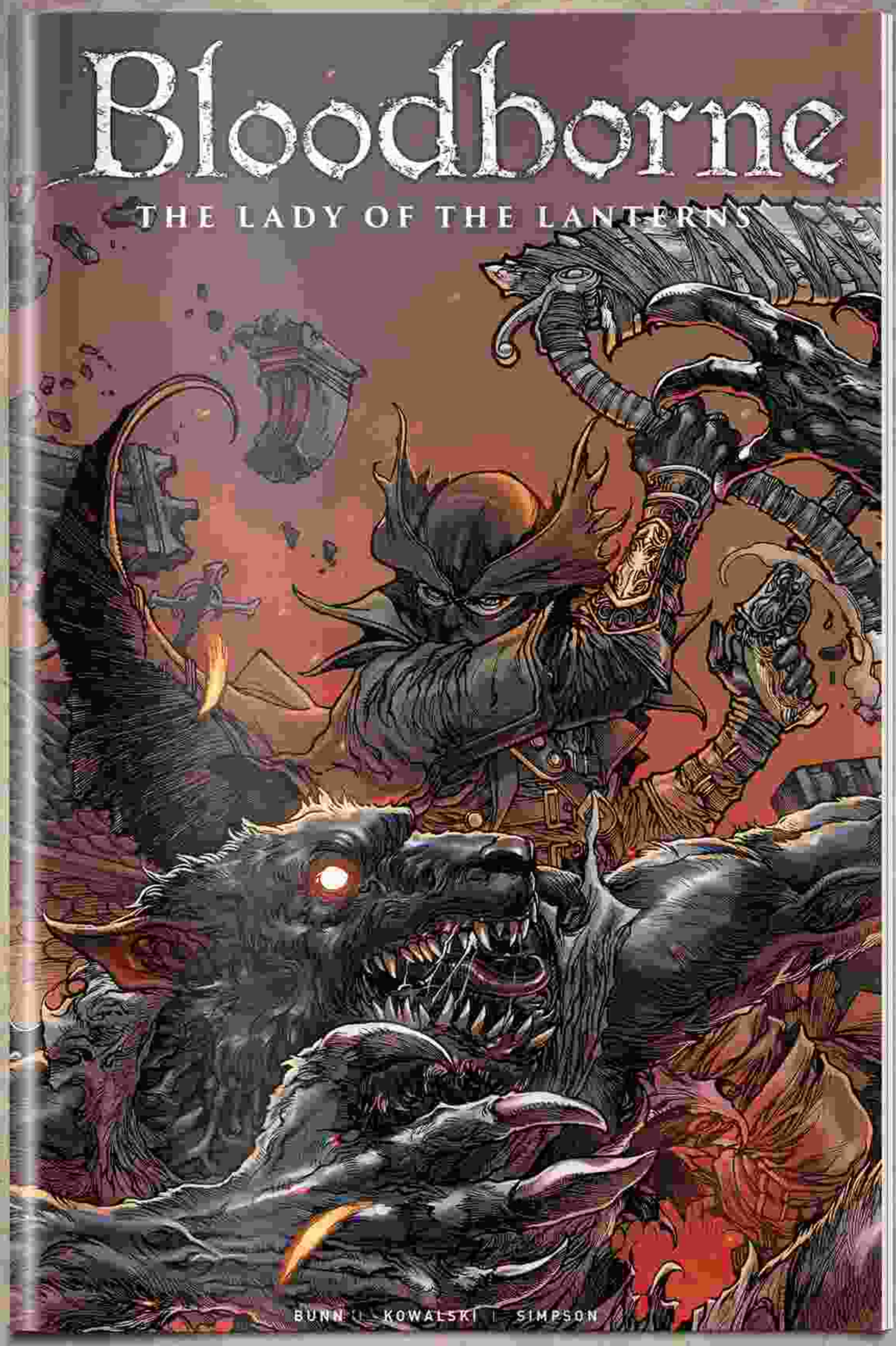

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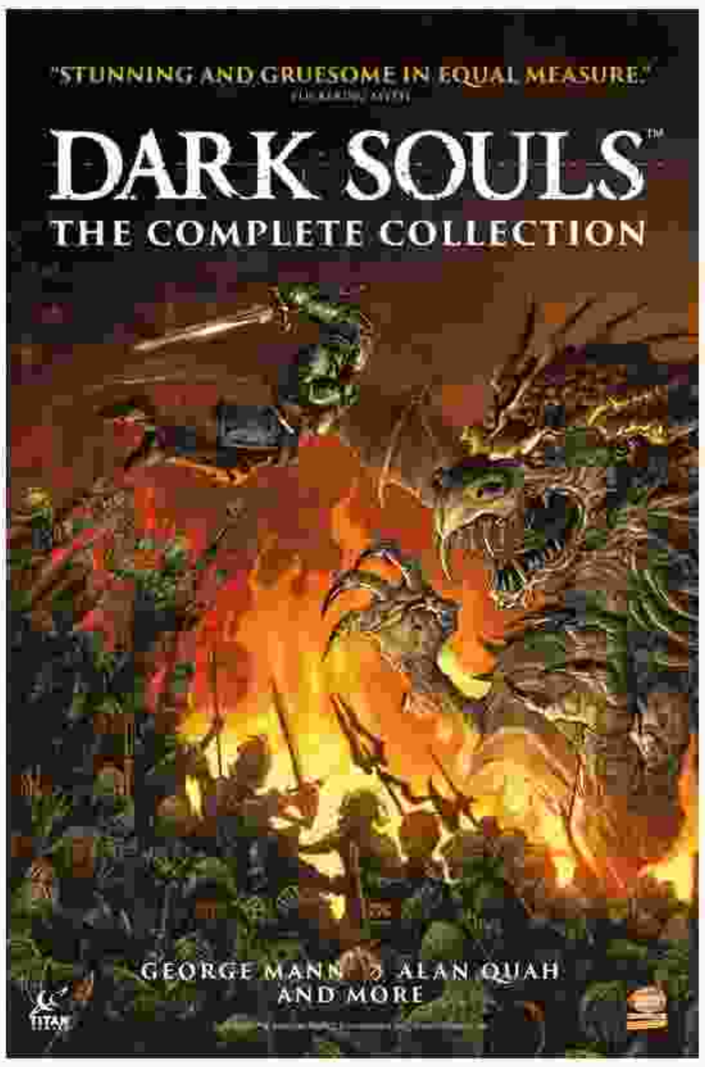

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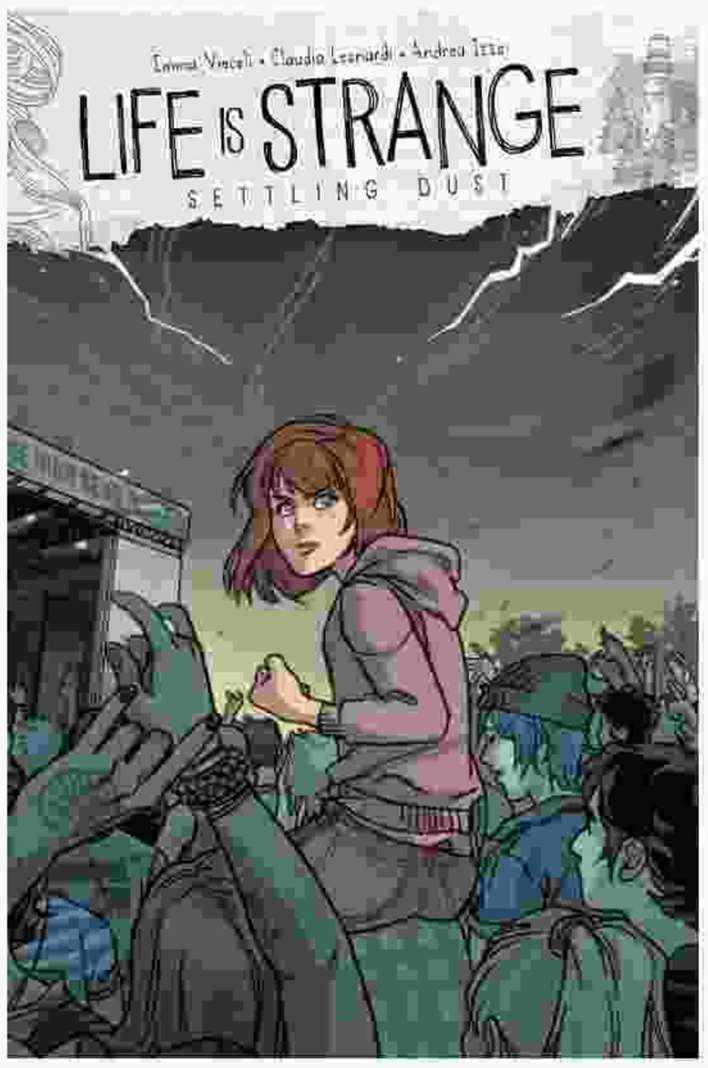

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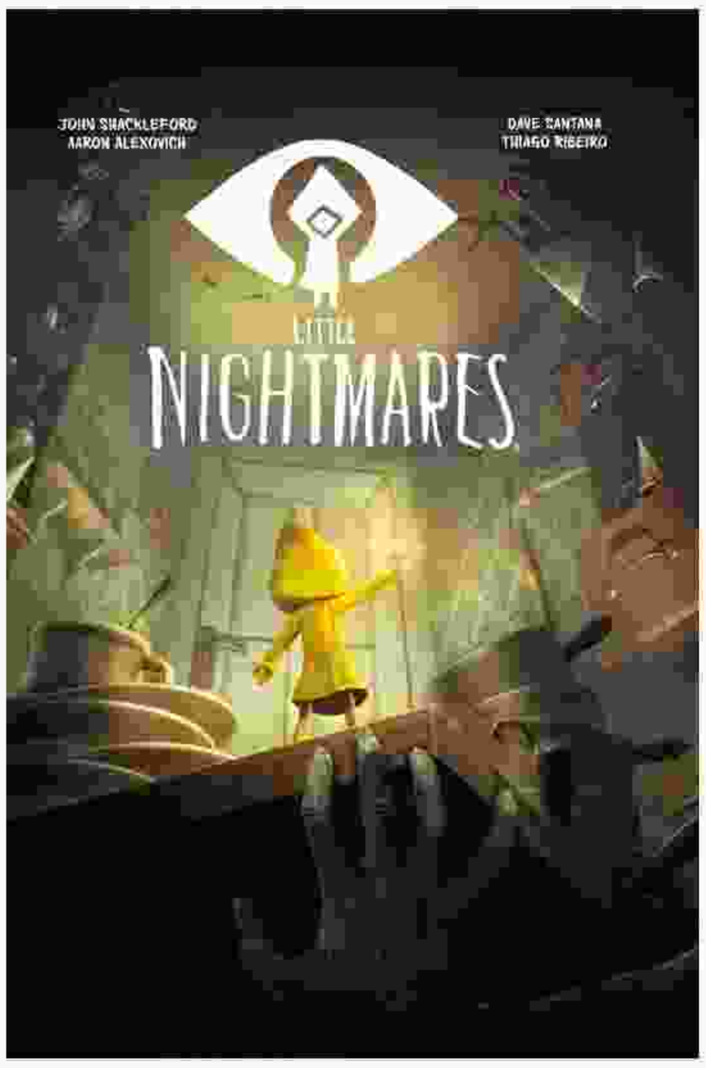

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ISSUE #3

THE LADY OF THE LANTERNS
PART 3 OF 4

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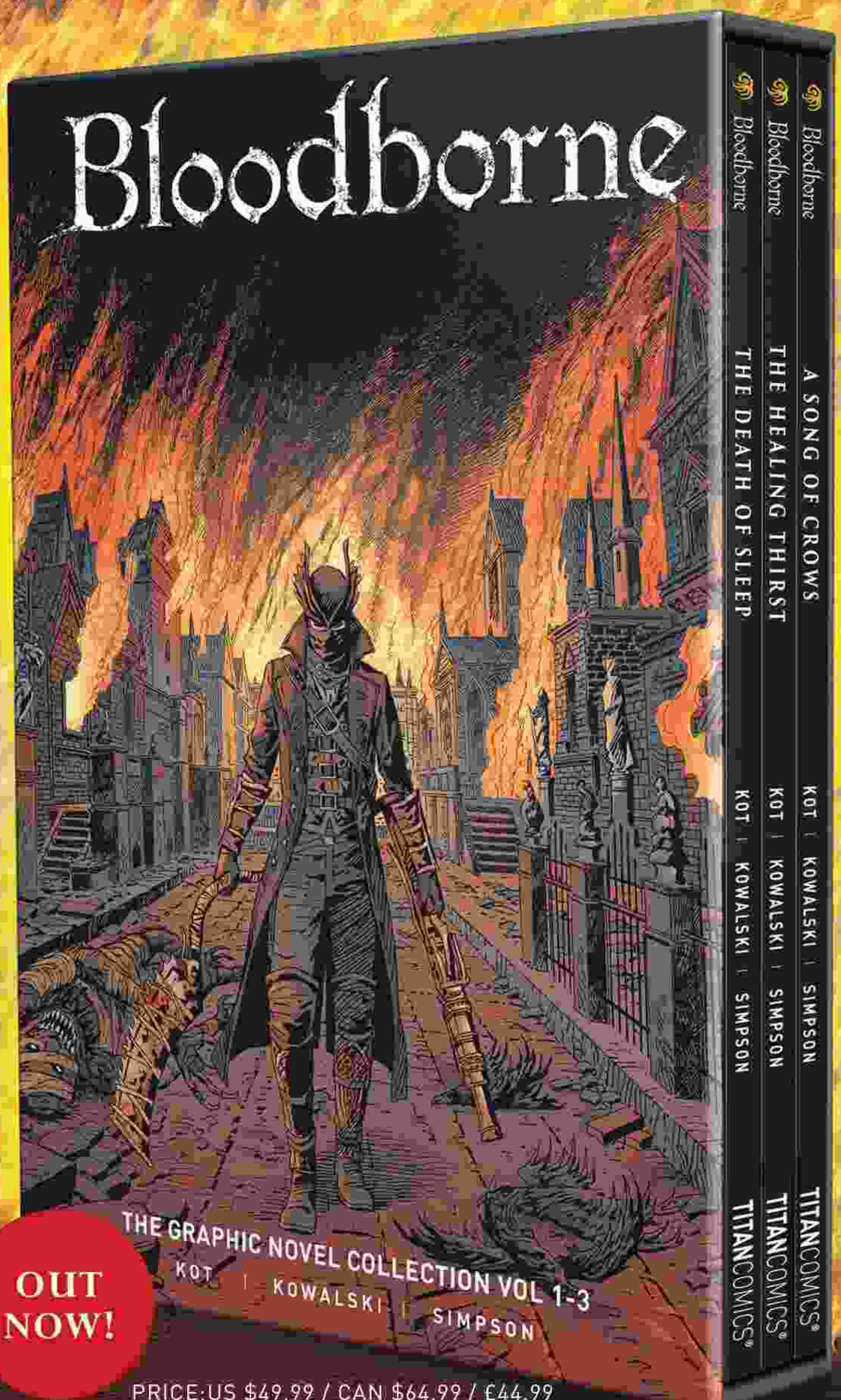

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DON'T LET HER SEE...

...DON'T LET HER SEE... DON'T LET HER SEE...

...COMING FOR ME... C-COMING FOR ME.

COVER YOUR EARS... G-GOUGE OUT YOUR EYES...

...THE LANTERN LADY'S SONG...

...MAKES YOU...

...FOOD FOR THE FLIES--

CH-CHILDREN?

VIVIAN? LUCIEN?

I'M HOME.

I BROUGHT FOOD.

F-FOOD.

:SOB:

UH--

WHO'S THERE?

CHILDREN? IS THAT--?

N-NO.

IT'S NOT THEM. THEY'RE... **GONE.**

SOMETHING ELSE! SOMETHING... ***WORSE!*** STALKING ME!

HOLD UP THERE, YEAH?

WHERE D'YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, MATE?

I H-HEARD... A **SONG.**

THERE WAS A **LIGHT.** A ***WOMAN.*** I WANTED TO--

LET'S HAVE A LOOK, YEAH?

DON'T HEAR A SONG. DON'T SEE ANYONE, EITHER.

SHE'S NOT THERE.

MIGHT BE FOR THE BEST, YEAH?

A WOMAN... *SINGING...* OUT IN THE STREETS AT NIGHT. WELL... THERE ARE **STORIES.**

WARNINGS.

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT HERE?

IT'S F-FOOD. I FOUND IT. FOR MY CHILDREN.

IS THAT RIGHT? AND WHERE ARE THEY? THEY WANDERING THE STREETS LIKE THEIR OLD MAN?

I... I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.

WE WERE STARVING. I WENT OUT TO SEARCH FOR FOOD.

YOU FOUND FOOD. BUT NOT THE CHILDREN.

MMH-- DIFFICULT TIMES.

COULD BE THEY FOUND SAFETY. SANCTUARY. THERE ARE KINDLY HOMES. CHURCHES.

I'M ***WILHELM,*** BY THE WAY.

I'M CALLED ***LAMONT.***

I... AM A **COWARD.**

I TRIED TO PROTECT MY FAMILY.

WE HOLED UP IN OUR HOUSE. I HOPED WE COULD STAY SAFE UNTIL THE PLAGUE HAD PASSED. BUT WE WERE STARVING.

I HAD TO DO SOMETHING. MY CHILDREN... ***VIVIAN*** AND ***LUCIEN.***

I LEFT THEM.

"BUT I PROMISED I'D RETURN. AND SOON.

"WE EVEN MADE UP THIS STUPID NURSERY RHYME... ABOUT THE LADY OF THE LANTERN...

"...TO REMIND THEM TO BE SAFE.

"I TOLD THEM TO STAY INSIDE, TO KEEP THE DOOR BARRED.

"TO NEVER VENTURE OUT, NOT FOR ANY REASON--

"—TO NOT BE THE **FOOL** THEIR FATHER WAS."

"FINDING FOOD WAS MORE DIFFICULT THAN I EXPECTED.

"THE SEARCH TOOK ME FAR FROM HOME.

"I SAW... THE **HORRORS** THAT AFFLICTED THE CITY.

"I FELT A **SICKNESS** SETTLE INTO MY BONES.

"NOT THE ***SCOURGE***, BUT PERHAPS JUST AS CRUEL.

"EVEN AS I FOUND SOMETHING TO TAKE BACK TO MY CHILDREN...

"...AS I STOLE FROM THOSE I COULD ONLY ASSUME HAD DIED IN THE NIGHT...

"...MY EVERY STEP GREW HEAVY...

"...AND I FELT THE PULL OF MY OWN...

"...HOPELESSNESS."

"I STARTED TO BELIEVE.

"DEEP DOWN I KNEW--

"--I WOULD NEVER MAKE IT HOME AGAIN.

"I WOULD NEVER SEE THE FACES OF MY CHILDREN.

"IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, I THOUGHT...

"...THEY WERE **DEAD** ALREADY.

"WHEN THE MOB GAVE CHASE...

"...MY FIRST INSTINCT WAS TO LET THEM TEAR ME DOWN."

"I FOUND A PLACE TO HIDE.

"TO WAIT OUT THE MOB.

"EVEN AFTER THEY WERE LONG GONE.

"I WAITED.

"NIGHT BECAME DAY.

"DAY BECAME NIGHT.

"BUT I COULDN'T FORCE MYSELF TO MOVE.

"I JUST STAYED THERE.

"HIDING.

"AND WAITING."

UNTIL IT WAS *TOO* **LATE.**

I'LL **NEVER** SEE THEIR FACES AGAIN.

THEY **DIED.** ***ALONE*** AND ***HUNGRY.***

WAITING FOR A **COWARD** TO RETURN HOME.

I CAN'T STAY HERE. I HAVE BUSINESS TO ATTEND.

COME.

WHERE--

I'VE BEEN ON THE HUNT FOR SOME TIME.

THAT SONG YOU HEARD? IT'S CALLED ALL MANNER OF ***FOUL THINGS*** INTO THE LIGHT.

DAYLIGHT, MOONLIGHT, MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.

AND THERE ARE MANY WHO NEED **HELP.**

N-NO!

PLEASE! P-PLEASE DON'T--

WE CAN'T LET **COWARDICE** AND **HOPELESSNESS** GET THE BEST OF US, YEAH?

FIGURE IT OUT, YEAH?

HERE.

W-WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH *THIS?*

A FAMILY LIVES IN THAT HOUSE. LIKE **YOUR** FAMILY.

BLAM
B-BLAM
BLAM
SH-SHRK
SHRK-SHRK
SHRK
BLAM
M-MY WIFE! MY CHILDREN!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL GET THEM OUT!
SH-SHRK
SHRK
K-SHRK

RAAAUGH!!!

WILHELM-- LOOK OUT!

SLSSSH

SLSKRK-SKRK-SKRK-

URGH!

THAT'S NOT WHAT A COWARD WOULD DO, YEAH? I MEAN, YOU STABBED HIM IN THE BACK.

BUT I'LL LET THAT SLIDE.

M-MY HUSBAND!

HE WENT THAT WAY!

GO ON!

FOLLOW HIM BEFORE THE HOUSE COMES DOWN AROUND YOUR EARS!

RUUUUUGH

KRA-SHK-

SMASH

W-WHAT IS THAT?

WHATEVER IT IS, MY FRIEND, IT WANTS TO KILL US.

I SUGGEST WE DON'T LET IT!

RUUUUUGH

BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM

SHRA-
CHANK
HTTT--
GRRRUH!
WHSSSH
OVER HERE! COME ON, RIGHT?
LET'S SETTLE THIS, YOU AND ME!
BLAM BLAM

THROK

WHUUGF!

SLSSH

GRUUUH.

AGH

LAMONT! HOLD ON! I'LL--

CHKOP

GRRRUU--
GRRUUU-:-

FW-THRUMP

HUNF--
:-KOF!

HRGK--
KAF!:-

LOOK AT THAT, YEAH? YOU KILLED THE BRUTE. SAVED MY HIDE, I IMAGINE.

SURE, YOU STRUCK FROM BEHIND AGAIN, BUT IT WAS PLENTY EFFECTIVE.

TH-THE FAMILY...

...MY F-FAMILY...

THEY MADE IT CLEAR.

WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YOU WERE A HERO.

G-GO. FIND THE FAMILY.

THEY SH-SHOULDN'T WANDER BY THEMSELVES. P-PROTECT THEM.

FAREWELL, FRIEND.

HNN--

L-LUCIEN.

F-FATHER.

I N-NEVER... THOUGHT... I'D SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN.

I SAW WHAT YOU DID, FATHER. I SAW YOU KILL THAT MONSTER. I SAW YOU SAVE THAT HUNTER.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR S-SISTER? **VIVIAN.** WHERE IS SHE?

SH-SHE'S JUST FINE. SHE'S RIGHT HERE. SHE'S WITH ME.

I'M L-LOOKING OUT FOR HER.

HELLO, HUNTER. IT'S NOT SAFE TO WANDER THE STREETS. EVEN FOR ONE SUCH AS YOURSELF.

THE LANTERN LADY IS WORKING THE BEASTS INTO A FRENZY. OR HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED?

THERE'S SAFETY IN NUMBERS, THOUGH. AND PERHAPS A CHANCE TO LAY THE LADY OF THE LANTERNS LOW.

CARE TO JOIN OUR BAND?

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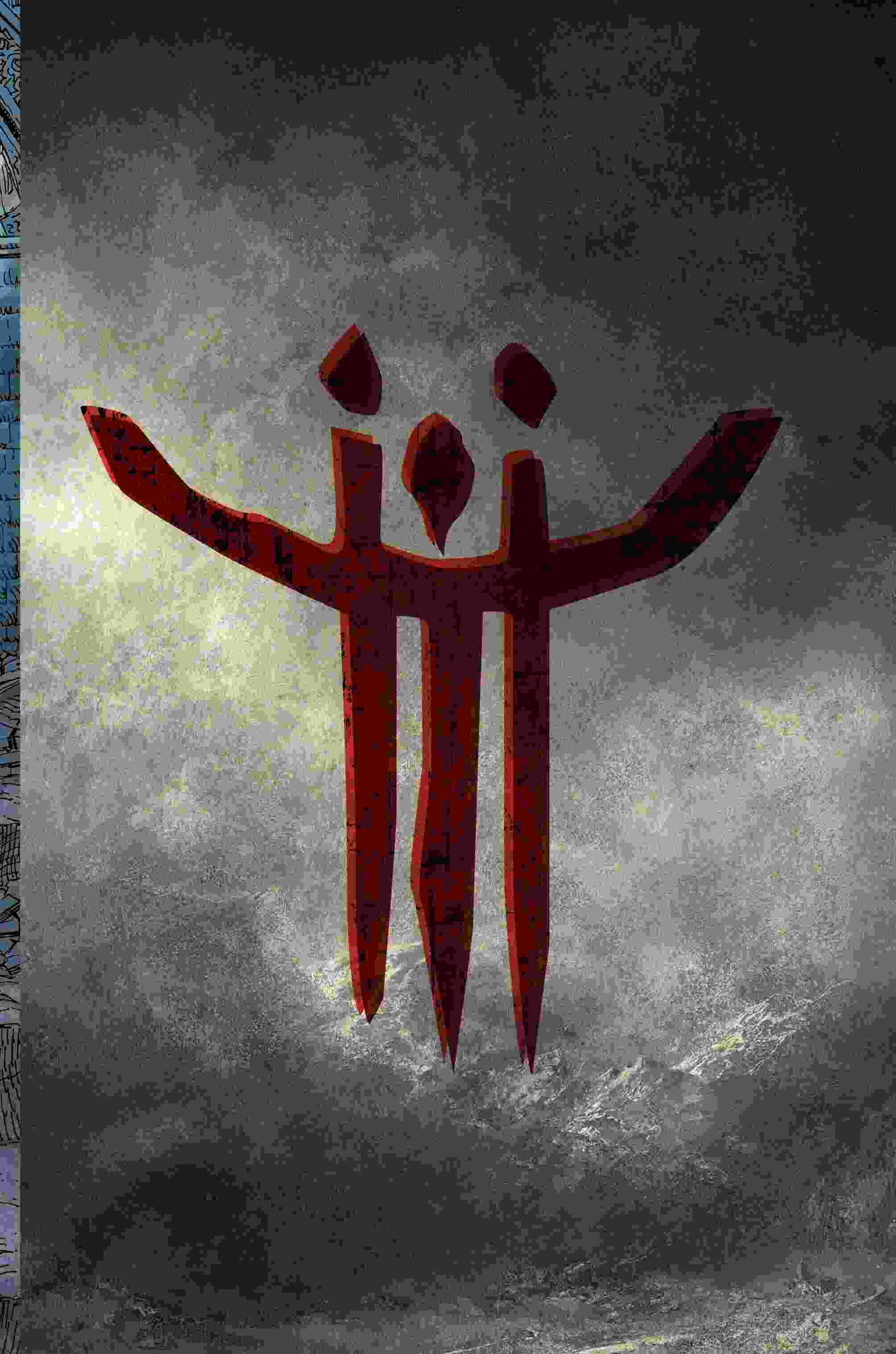

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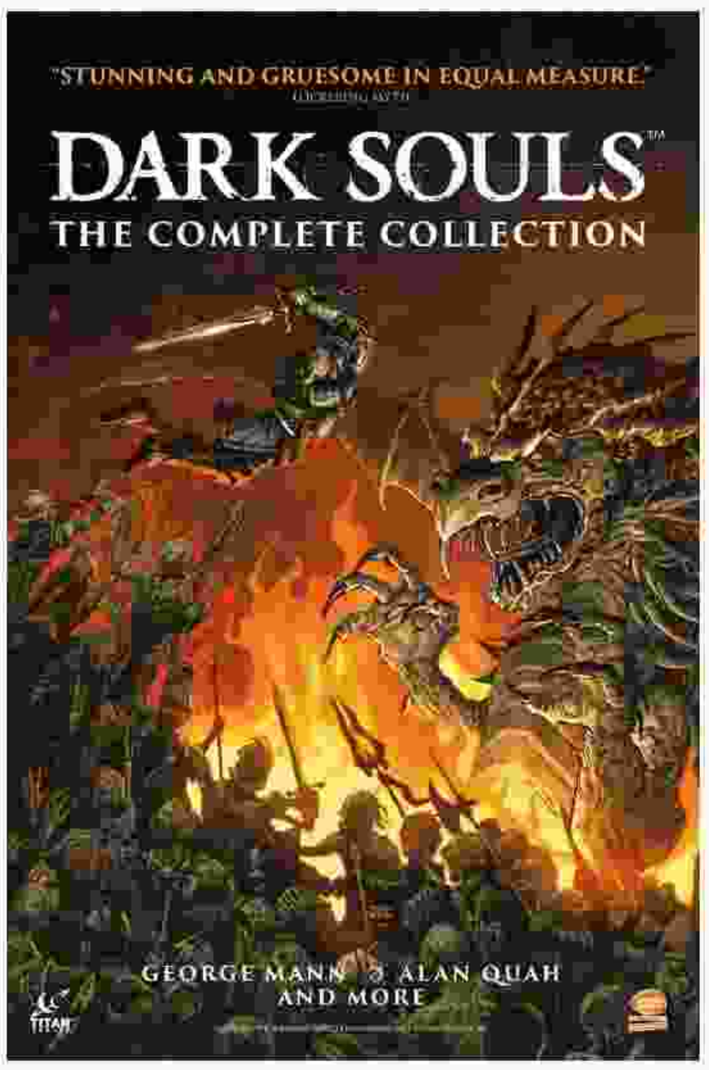

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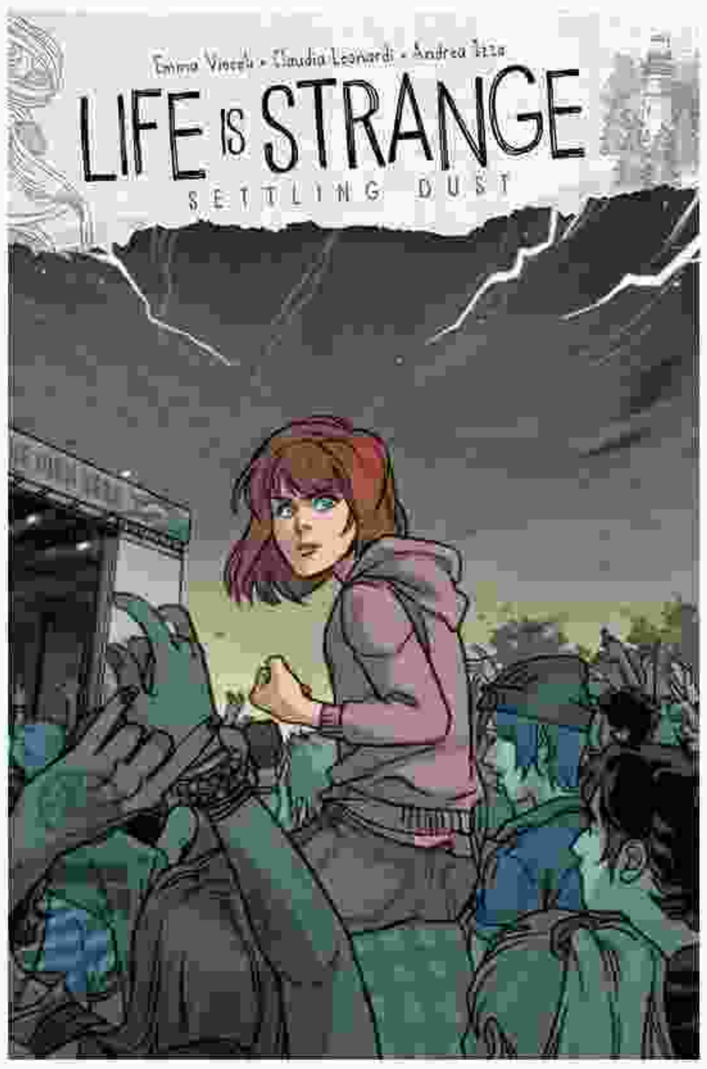

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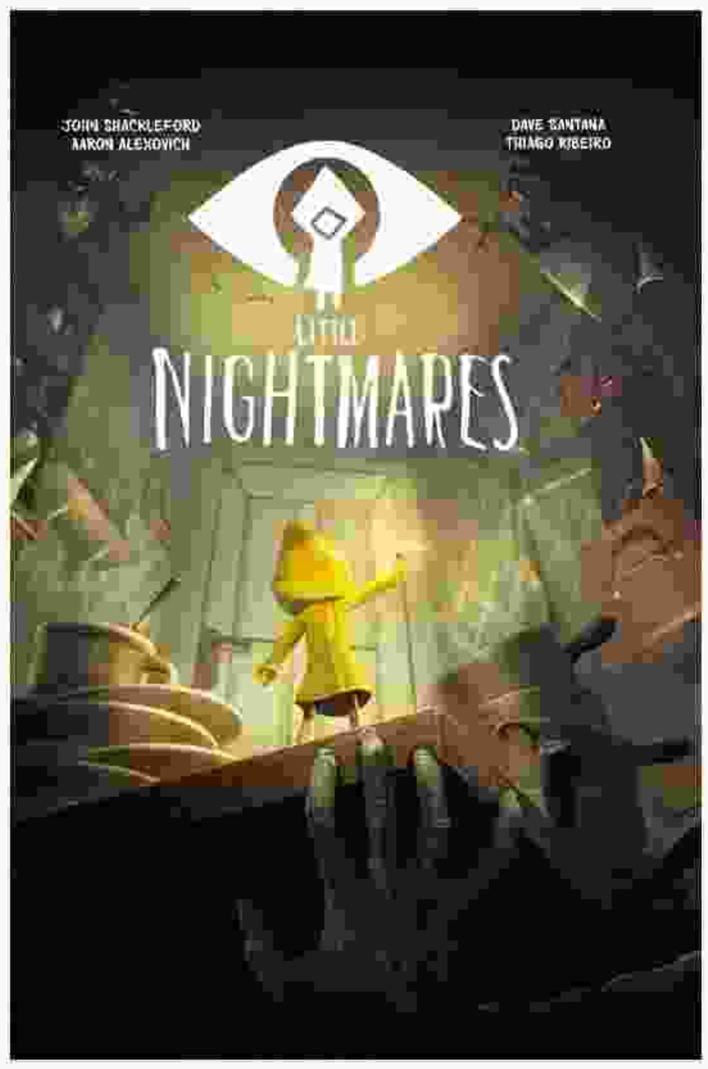

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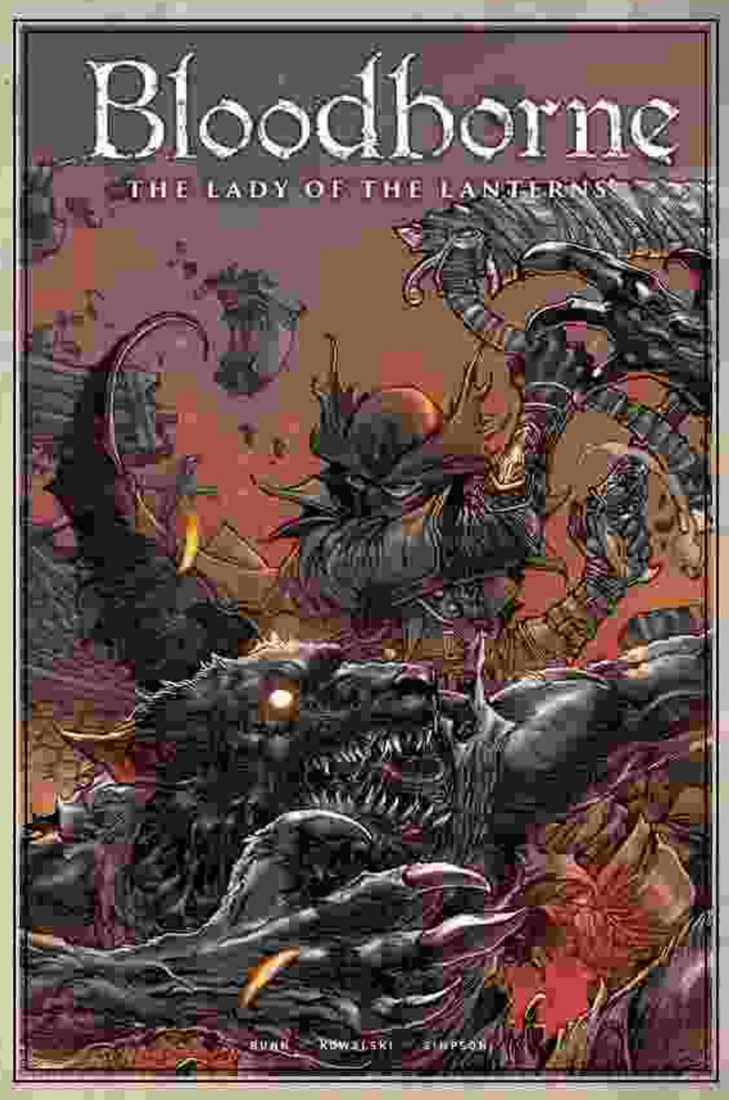

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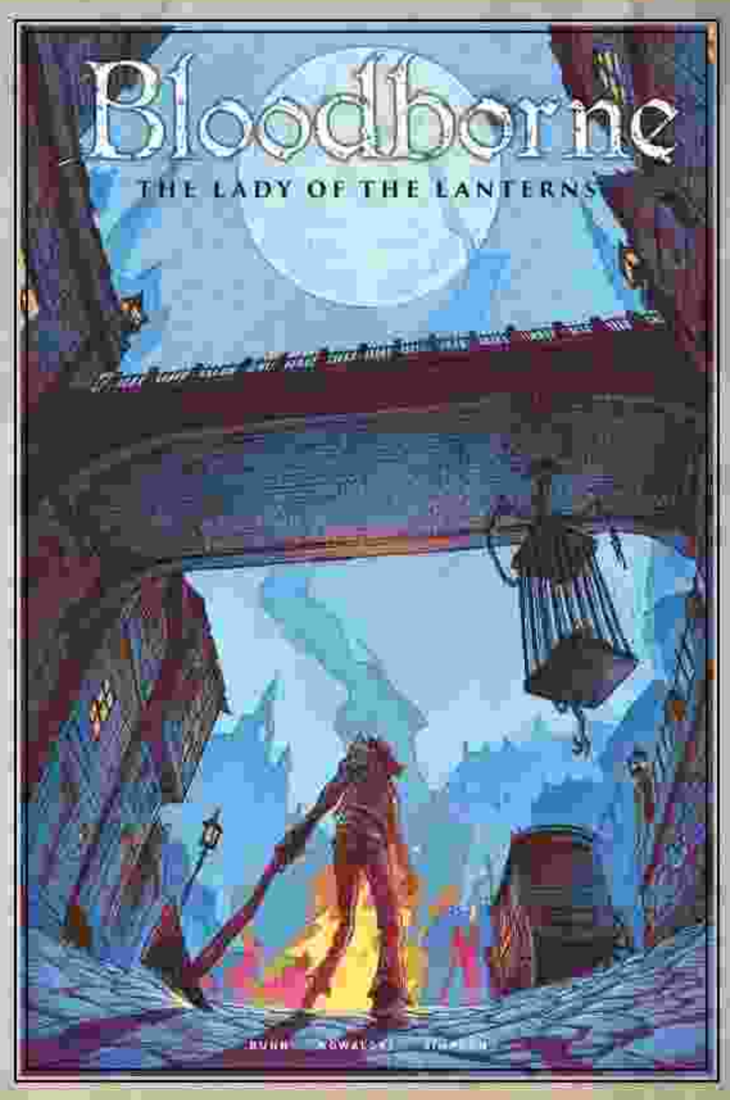

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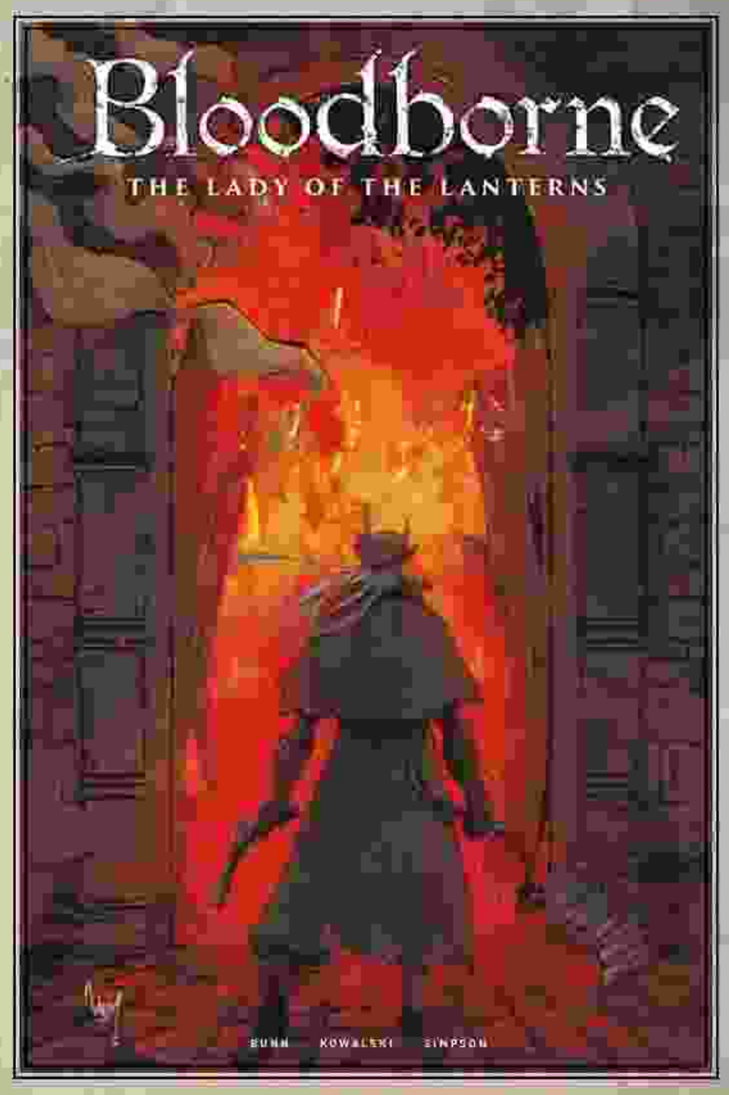

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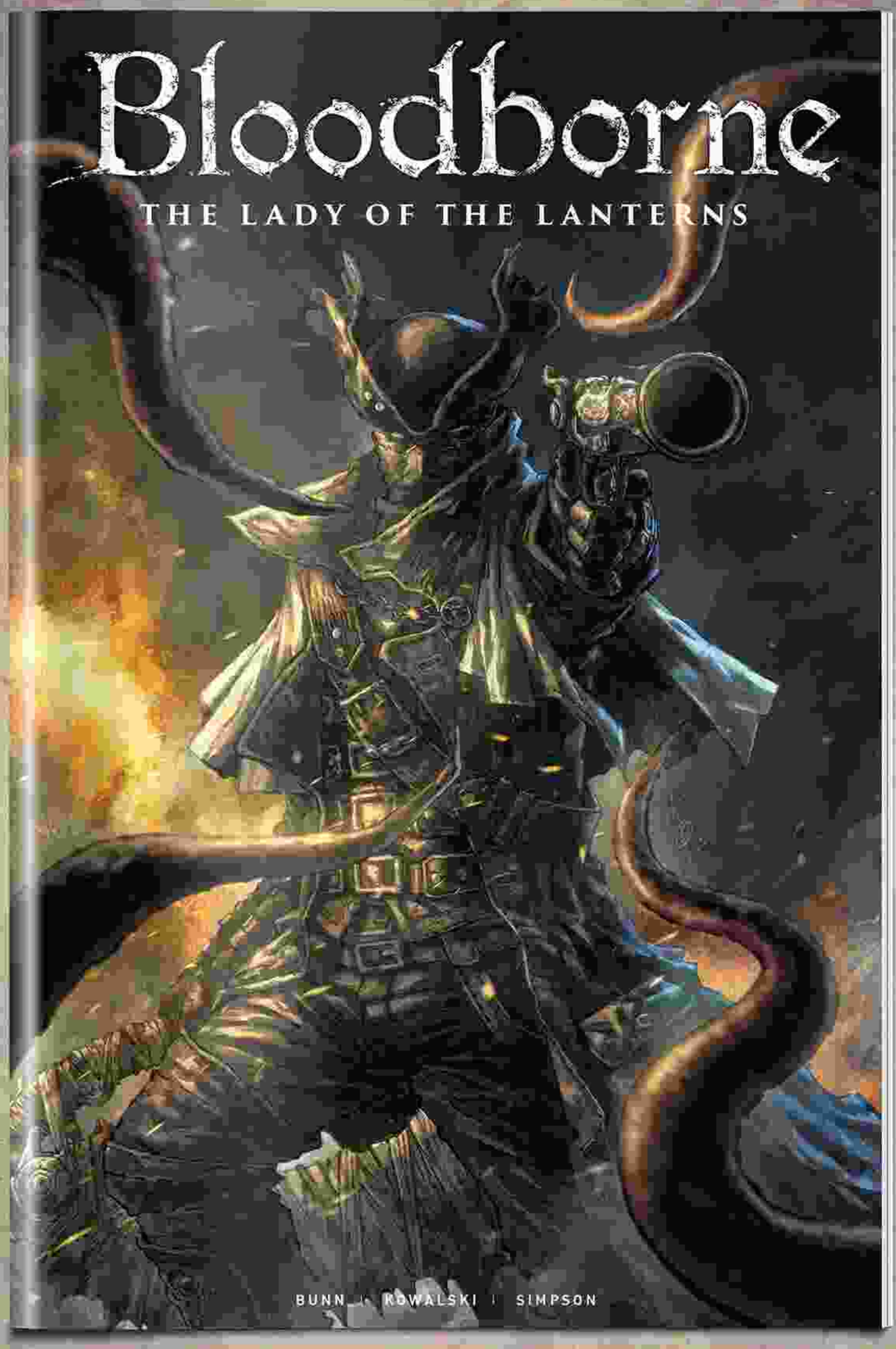

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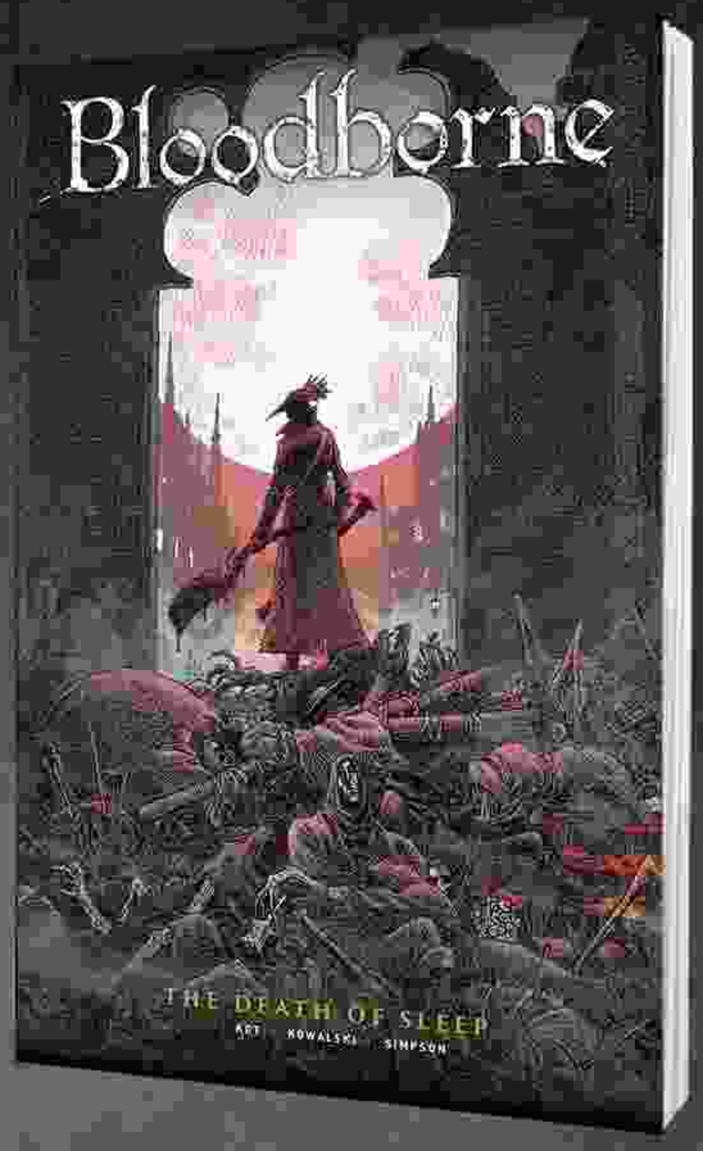

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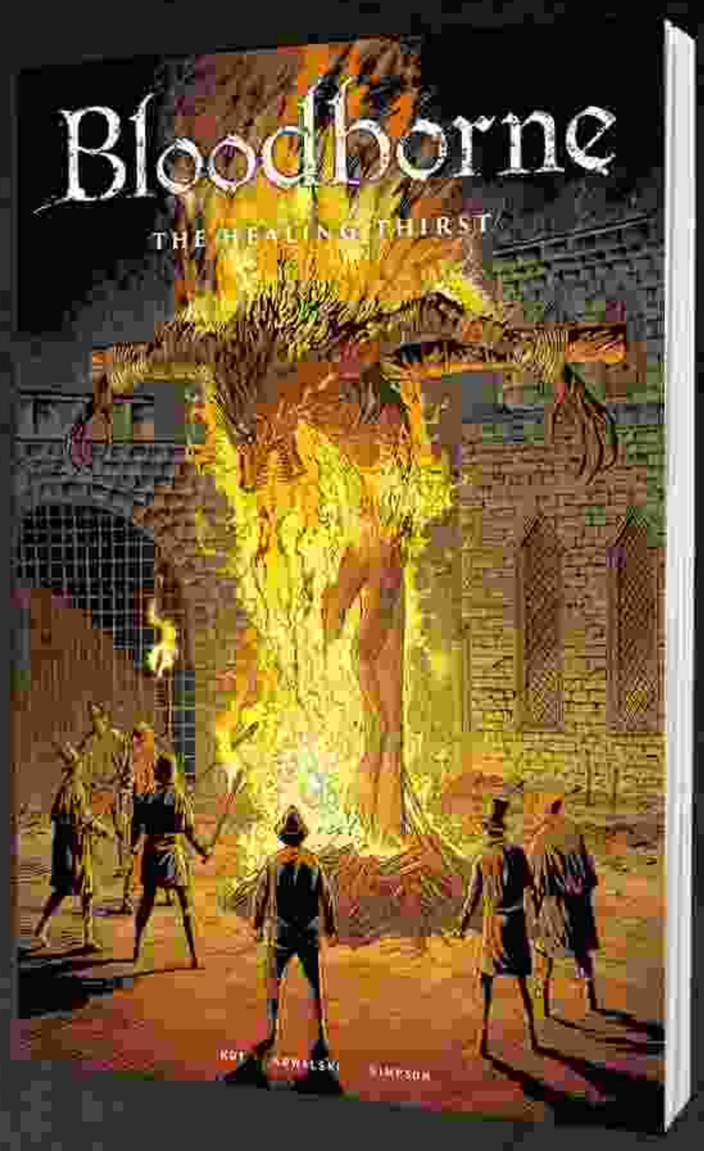

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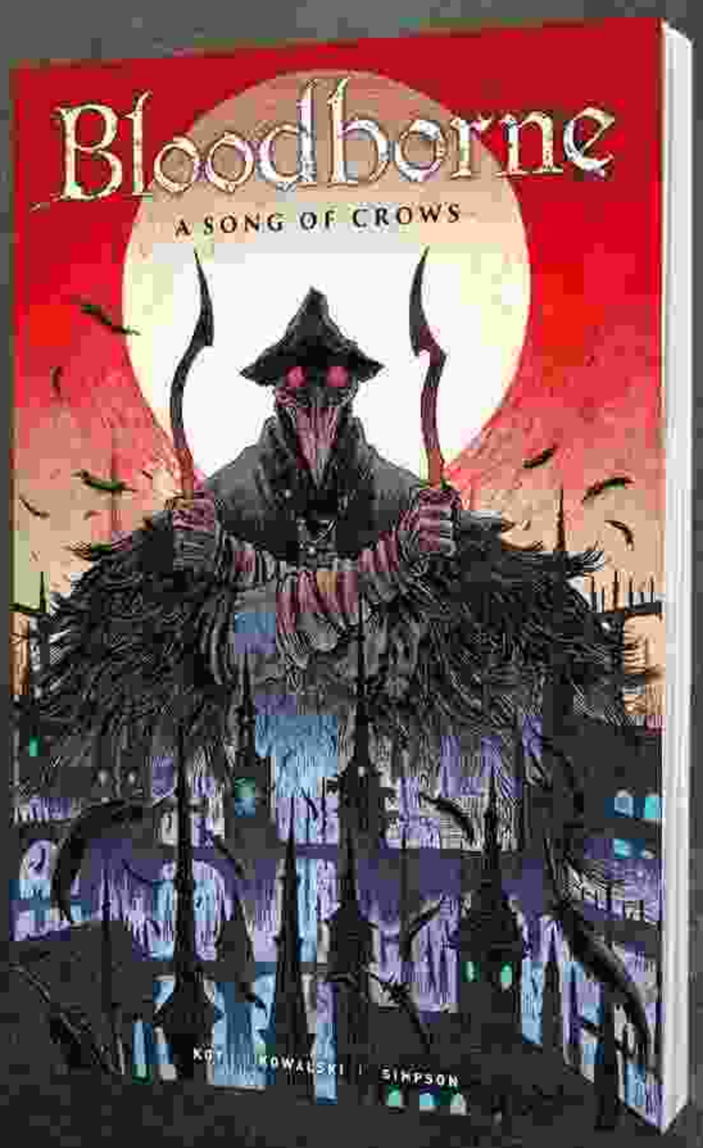

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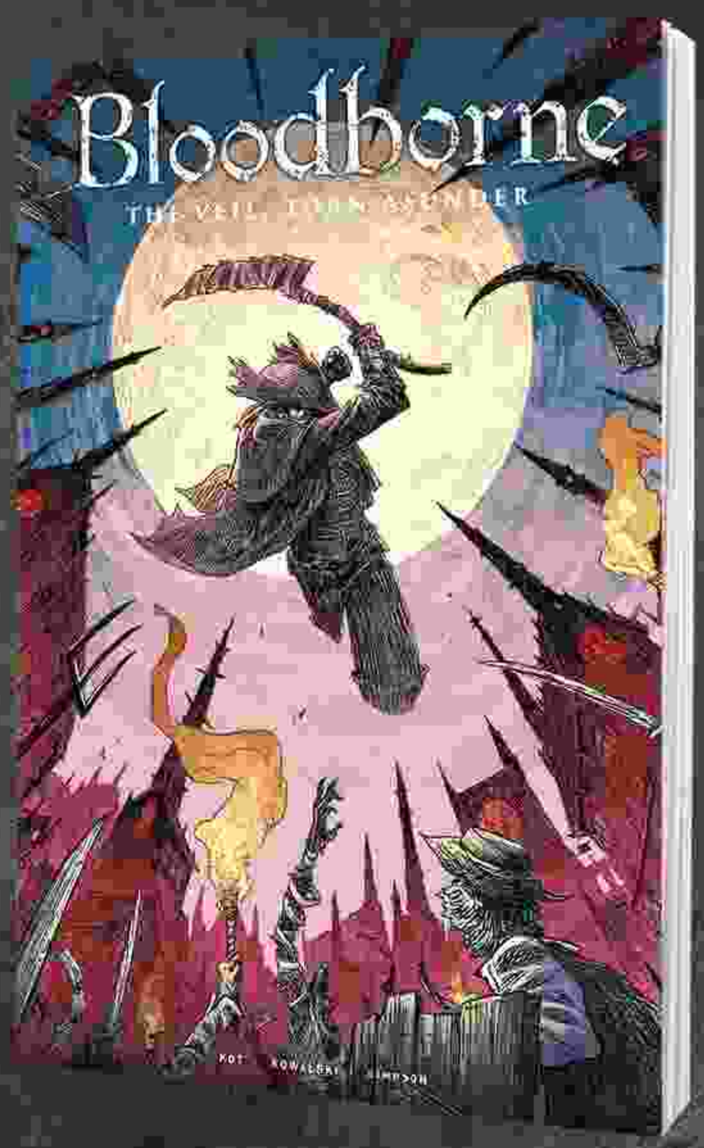

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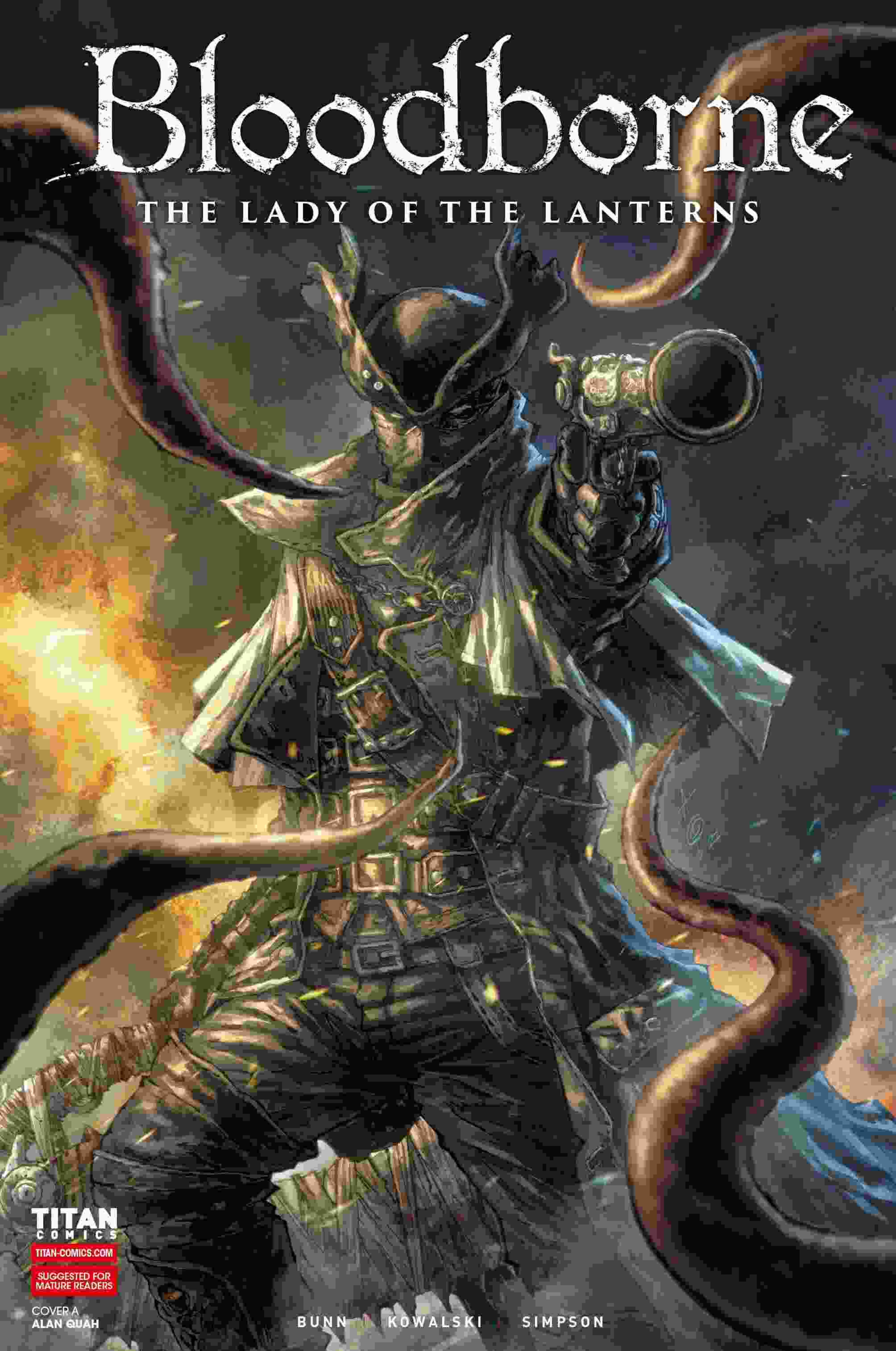

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ISSUE #4

THE LADY OF THE LANTERNS
PART 4 OF 4

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Set in the world of Bloodborne.

The city of Yharnam: an ancient, gothic metropolis in a world of gods and monsters, has fallen foul of a nightmarish plague.

The Healing Church, known for its miraculous blood-based curatives, does not know where the mysterious Ashen Blood disease came from, or how to prevent it from ravaging Yharnam's citizens.

Hunters stalk the streets in search of beasts, the first line of defense against the madness. But not all monsters are so easily recognized – in the homes and hearts of men, fear and grief can breed a new type of torment…

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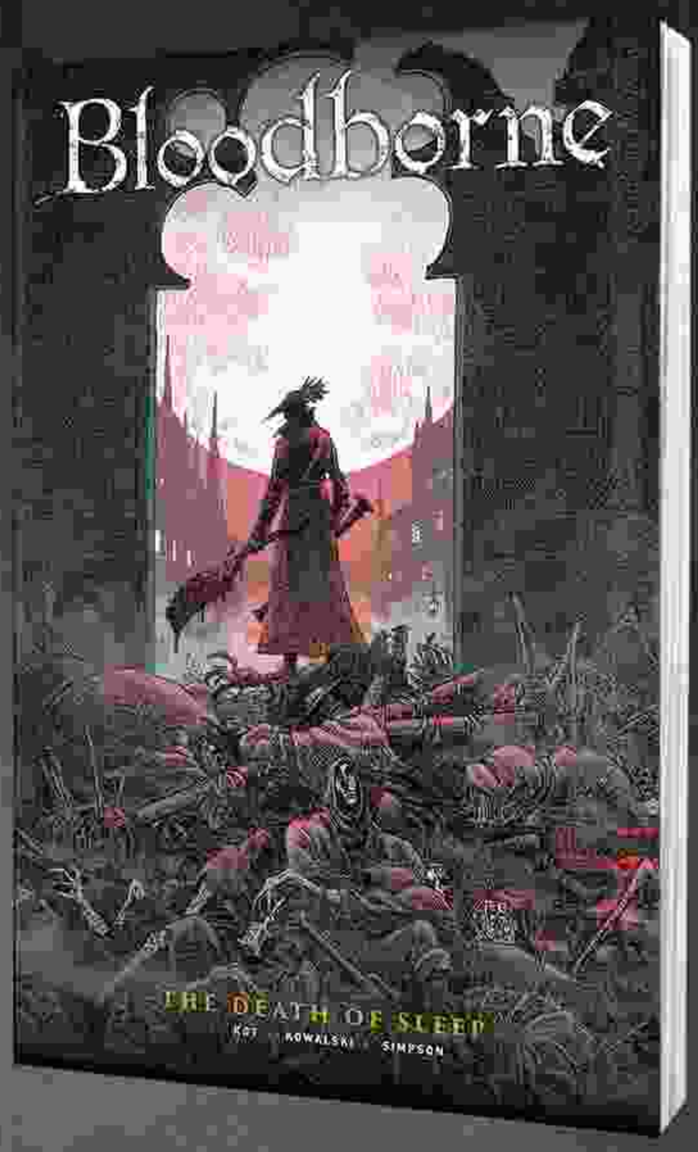

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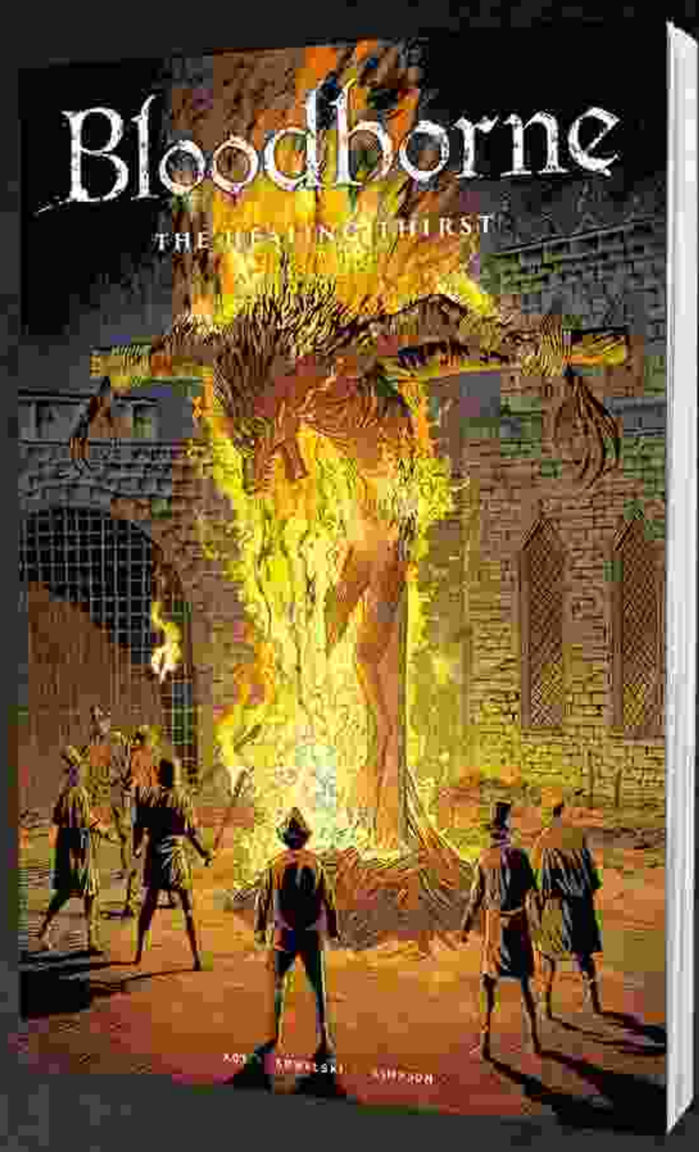

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MY FATHER WOULD RECITE A RHYME...

...TO KEEP MY SISTER AND I AT HOME...

...TO KEEP US SAFE.

"HIDE, HIDE.

"DON'T LET HER SEE.

"THE LADY OF THE LANTERN IS COMING FOR ME".

"COVER YOUR EARS AND GOUGE OUT YOUR EYES.

"THE LADY'S SONG...

"...MAKES YOU FOOD FOR THE FLIES".

THE RHYME DIDN'T PROTECT US, THOUGH.

NOT MY SISTER... AND NOT MY FATHER.

THERE IS BUT ONE THING THAT SAFEGUARDS THE HELPLESS IN THE ACCURSED CITY OF YHARNAM.

THE HUNTERS.

GR-GRETCHEN!

THERE ARE SO MANY!

POOR SOULS!

THEY DO NOT REALIZE THEY HAVE FALLEN TO *THE SCOURGE!*

BEST TO END THEIR MISERY *QUICKLY!*

THE PLAGUE STRUGGLES AGAINST ITSELF!

AND EVEN THEN, WE MUST FIGHT FOR OUR LIVES!

NONE OF US WILL SEE *ETERNITY,* BARNABAS!

BEST NOT TO *LAMENT* OUR *FATE!*

I HAVE SEEN THESE WARRIORS.

I HAVE WATCHED THEM STRUGGLE AGAINST THE APPROACH OF ENDLESS DARKNESS.

EVEN THOUGH ALL IS LOST, THEY FIGHT.

THEY ARE DRIVEN TO A *FRENZY!*

IT'S THE *SONG!* CAN YOU HEAR IT?

THE *LADY OF THE LANTERN* SINGS FROM THE SHADOWS!

I *REVERE* THEM. I *FEAR* THEM.

I *PITY* THEM.

SHE'S *CLOSE,* THEN!

THE LADY OF THE LANTERN IS *NEARBY!*

SHE CALLS TO US, TOO!

SHE DRAWS US LIKE MOTHS TO THE FLAME!

MOTHS, PERHAPS, BUT *HEAVILY ARMED!*

THEY FACE DEATH.

THEIR TIME ON THIS WORLD, THIS DOOMED AND HATEFUL WORLD-- IS *FLEETING.*

LIKE THEM, I MUST SEE THE BATTLE THROUGH.

WHEN WE FIND THE LADY OF THE LANTERNS...

...WHEN WE KILL HER...

...WHAT THEN?

WHEN WE KILL HER, ABRAHAM?

NOT *IF*?

YOU'RE FOOLISH AND OVERCONFIDENT, LITTLE BROTHER, BRAVE AND STUPID.

I LIKE YOU.

AND ONCE SHE'S SLAIN...

...WHETHER WE STAY TOGETHER OR GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS...

...WE KILL WHATEVER'S *NEXT.*

WHEN YOUR LIFE IS NAUGHT BUT REPETITION...

...YOU CAN SEE YOUR OWN FUTURE.

AND THIS IS WHY ETERNITY HAS *LITTLE* APPEAL TO ME.

THE SONG'S FALLEN SILENT. BUT SHE'S LEFT A TRAIL.

WE'RE *CLOSE.*

HERE.

SHE'S GONE BELOW. INTO THE *ROOT CELLAR.*

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

A **WINE** CELLAR WOULD HAVE BEEN NICER, *HM?*

OUR HOST MIGHT HAVE OFFERED US A REFRESHING DRINK.

TRULY, SHE IS **VILE.**

YOUR MIRTH IS MISPLACED, WILHELM.

THIS CREATURE WE FACE... WILL **NOT** BE LAUGHING.

A PASSAGE.

THE AIR FROM BELOW IS FOUL.

IT REEKS OF DEATH.

A SONG...

...A STENCH...

...A SUMMONING...

...A CALL...

"...A DINNER BELL..."

GRRRRRRRRRK

GRRRRRRRRRK

GRRRRRRRRRK

RAAAGHHH

GET BACK, CUR!

MY CARCASS IS NOT FOR THE LIKES OF YOU!

GRRRAAAH!

IT'S AS IF THE BEASTS FLOCK TO THE SONG OF THEIR MISTRESS!

SHE KNOWS WE'RE TRAILING HER!

MY SISTER FELL VICTIM TO THE SCOURGE.

AND I WATCHED ONE OF THESE HUNTERS KILL HER.

I **FEARED** WHAT VIVIAN BECAME... BUT I STILL **COULDN'T UNDERSTAND** THE HUNTER'S RUTHLESSNESS.

RRRAAAUGH!

UHFF!

MY FATHER HAD ABANDONED US IN SEARCH OF FOOD.

HE RETURNED TOO LATE TO SAVE US, BUT HE DIED PROTECTING ANOTHER FAMILY.

I **HATED** HIM FOR HIS COWARDICE... BUT I SAW HIM AS A **HERO** IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS.

BLAM KRAK

B-BLAM BLAM

THE LADY **HIDES** FROM US! SHE'S ***AFRAID!***

AND RIGHTFULLY SO!

SLLSSH

YAAARH!!!

DOUBT AND FEAR.

HATRED AND FORGIVENESS.

HRRR--

THESE THINGS HAVE BROUGHT ME TO THIS HELLISH PLACE.

I'LL NOT BELIEVE YOUR LIES! I REBUKE YOU!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND--?!

I MUST SEE THIS THROUGH.

ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

EVEN IF IT MEANS JOINING MY SISTER AND FATHER.

I CAST YOU OUT!

ABIGAIL?

NO.

WE'LL FINISH THIS.

HERE. NOW.

THE LADY OF THE LANTERN DIES.

HIDE, HIDE. DON'T LET HER SEE.

THE LADY OF THE LANTERN IS COMING FOR ME.

COVER YOUR EARS AND GOUGE OUT YOUR EYES.

THE LADY'S SONG MAKES YOU FOOD FOR THE FLIES.

AH!

IT... IT HAS ME! I CANNOT BREAK FREE!

GRETCHEN!

HRRRK!

LET HIM GO, YEAH? HE'S TOO LITTLE FOR YOU!

IF YOU'RE HUNGRY, I'LL FEED YOU!

KRAK KRAK

B-BLAM BLAM

UNNNF!

EASY, ABRAHAM!

YOU'LL LIVE, BUT YOU NEED TO CATCH YOUR BREATH!

THE CREATURE--

IT'S SORTED.

TAKE YOUR SONG BACK TO HELL'S CHOIR!

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAK BRAK BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAK

EVEN AS IT DIES...

...IF SUCH A THING CAN TRULY PERISH...

...THE LADY OF THE LANTERN SINGS HER AWFUL SONG.

SKKRRR-EEEEE

A DEATH KNELL.

NOT JUST ONE VOICE.

BUT MANY--

--A CACOPHONY.

LOOK OUT! SHE WAS NOT ALONE!

IT'S A NEST!

BRAKKA BRAK BRAKK
BRAKKA BRAK
BRAK BRAKKA BRAK
BRAKKA BRAK
BRAKKA BRAK

SH-SHRK
SHRK-SHRK
SHRK

BLAM
BLAM
B-BLAM
BLAM

CHWOP

SLLSSH

HNNNN--

RAAAGH!!!

WHU-- BARNABAS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THE SCOURGE HAS HIM!

GET CLEAR! I DON'T HAVE A SHOT!

SHRNNNG

BARNABAS! FIGHT THIS! *HNNN!* THIS IS NOT YOU!

RNNN--

M-MORE THAN A MOUTHFUL! YEAH?

YOU'LL *CHOKE* ON ME!

WILHELM!

CRUNCH

YEARGH!!!

SKKRRT

HNNGK

SHRRAKT

HNNNF!

THE BEASTS OF THE SCOURGE...

...THEY ARE HUNTING IN A PACK...

...AND SO, TOO, MUST WE.

RAAAGH!!!

SO, TOO, MUST...

...WE.

IT'S A MERCY!

CHA'NK

WHUUUF!

UH--

SLING K

I AM SORRY, MY FRIEND. SO SORRY.

A LANTERN...

...NEEDS A FLAME.

BURN, YOU DEVILS!

AWOOGA

GOOD RIDDANCE.

THAT'S ALL OF THEM, THEN?

THE LANTERNS. THEY'RE ALL DEAD.

IT'S *OVER.*

N-NO, LITTLE BROTHER. THIS FIGHT IS OVER, PERHAPS.

BUT WE HAVEN'T RID OURSELVES OF THE SCOURGE.

AND THERE ARE *OTHER* BEASTS TO HUNT.

YOU DON'T MEAN TO VENTURE DEEPER INTO THOSE TUNNELS?

YOU CAN BARELY STAND.

NOW WE HAVE TO K-KILL WHATEVER'S *NEXT.*

LIKE BARNABAS SAID.

BARNABAS IS *GONE.*

AND HE WOULD NAME YOU A *FOOL* FOR WANTING TO PRESS FORWARD.

AND WHO KNOWS *WHAT* YOU'LL FIND DOWN THERE IN THE DARK?

I KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT I'LL FIND.

FAREWELL, MY FRIENDS! FAREWELL.

AND GOOD HUNTING.

WE'RE JUST GOING TO LET HIM GO?

IT IS HIS *CHOICE.* AND HIS OWN *DEATH.*

WE HAVE *BUSINESS* IN YHARNAM YET.

AND WHAT MUST WE DO WITH YOU?

I... I THINK I WOULD LIKE TO COME WITH YOU.

I WOULD LIKE TO **HUNT.**

YOU'RE BUT A CHILD. I CAN'T LOOK AFTER YOU.

I ALREADY *HAVE* AN APPRENTICE.

I'VE LEARNED SO MUCH.

AND THERE'S MUCH TO SHARE.

PERHAPS IT'S TIME FOR ME TO TAKE ON AN APPRENTICE OF MY OWN.

VERY WELL, THEN. TRY TO KEEP UP.

THERE'S MUCH TO DO--

--AND WE'RE BURNING THE NIGHT.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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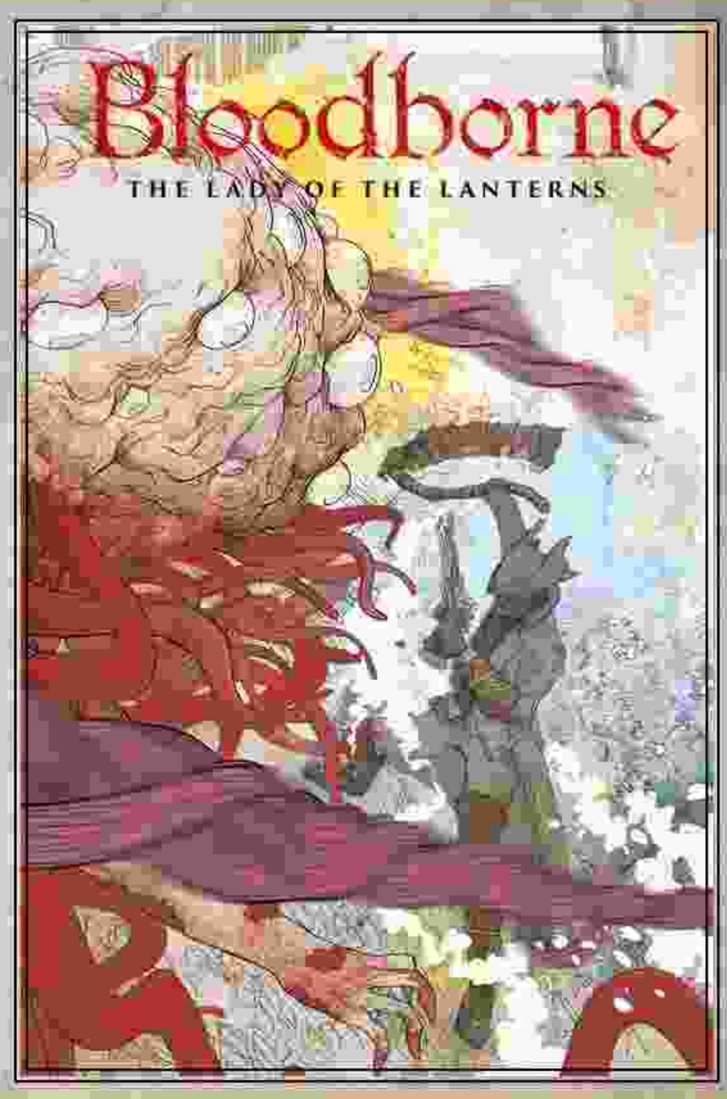

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Cover C
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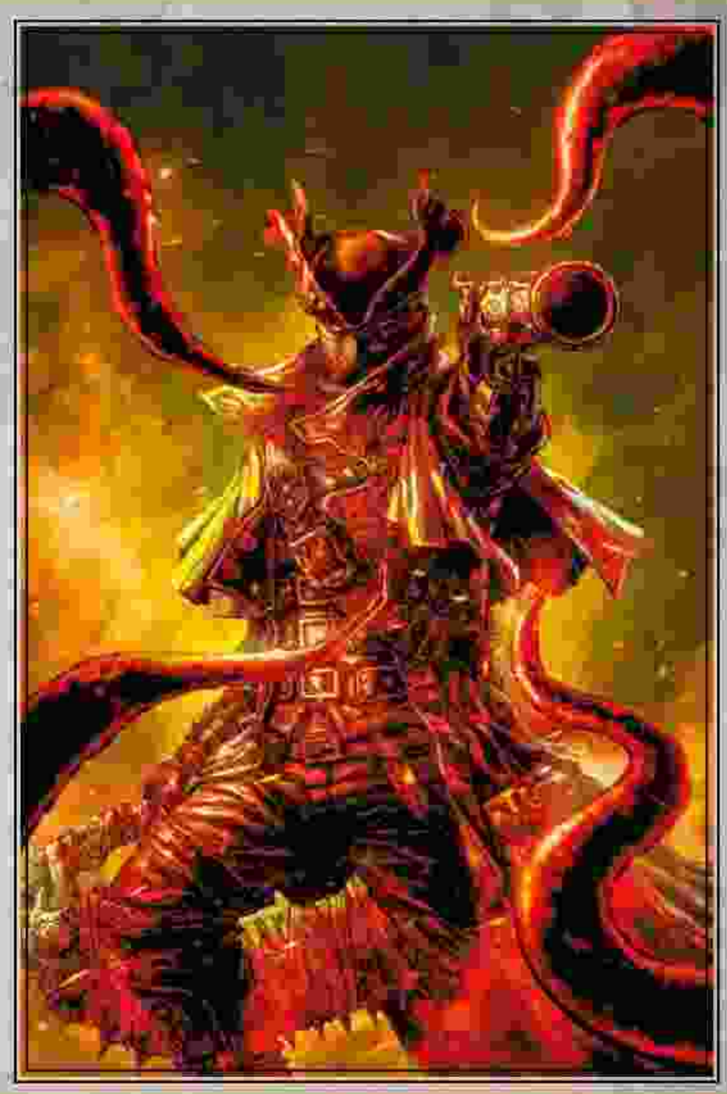

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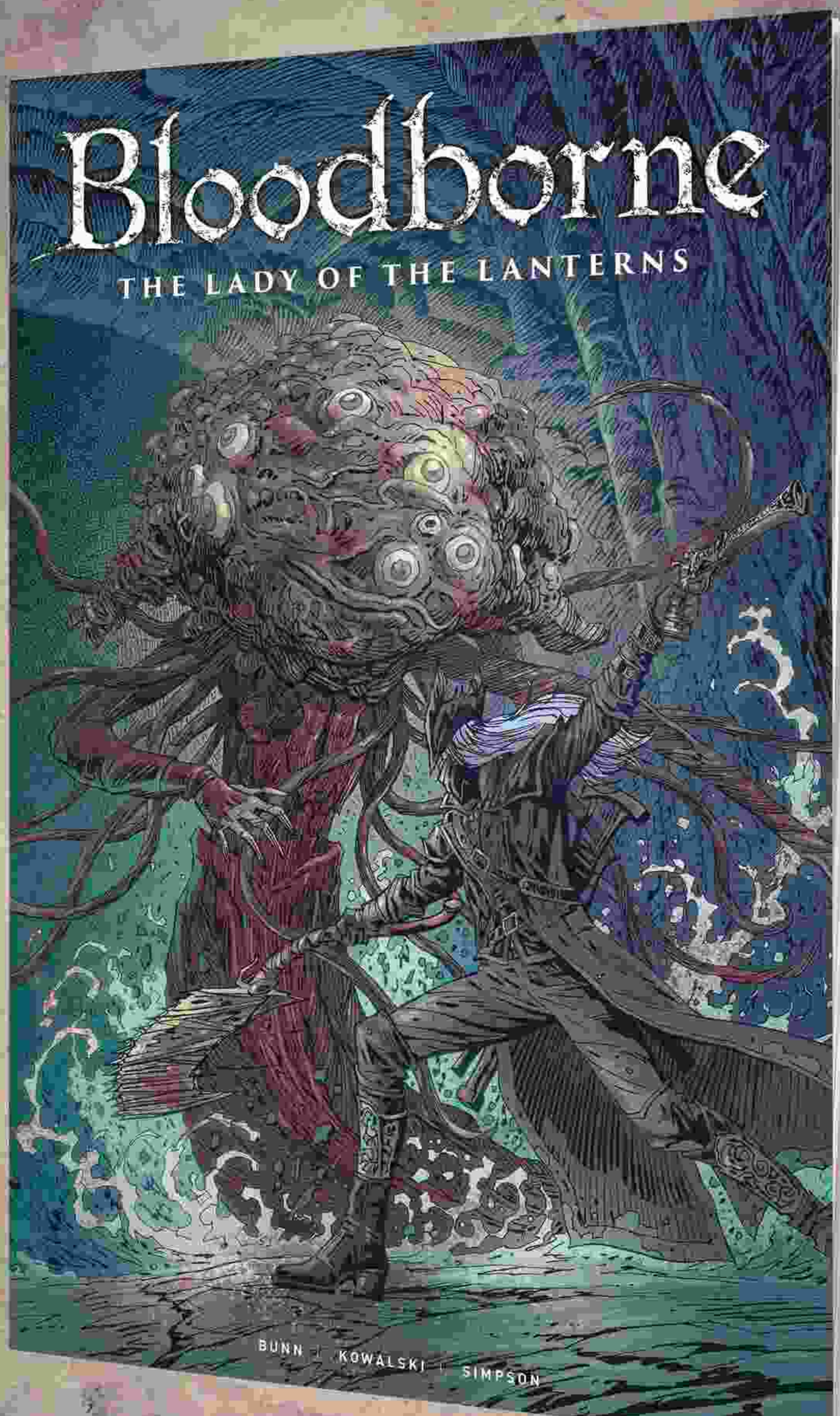

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